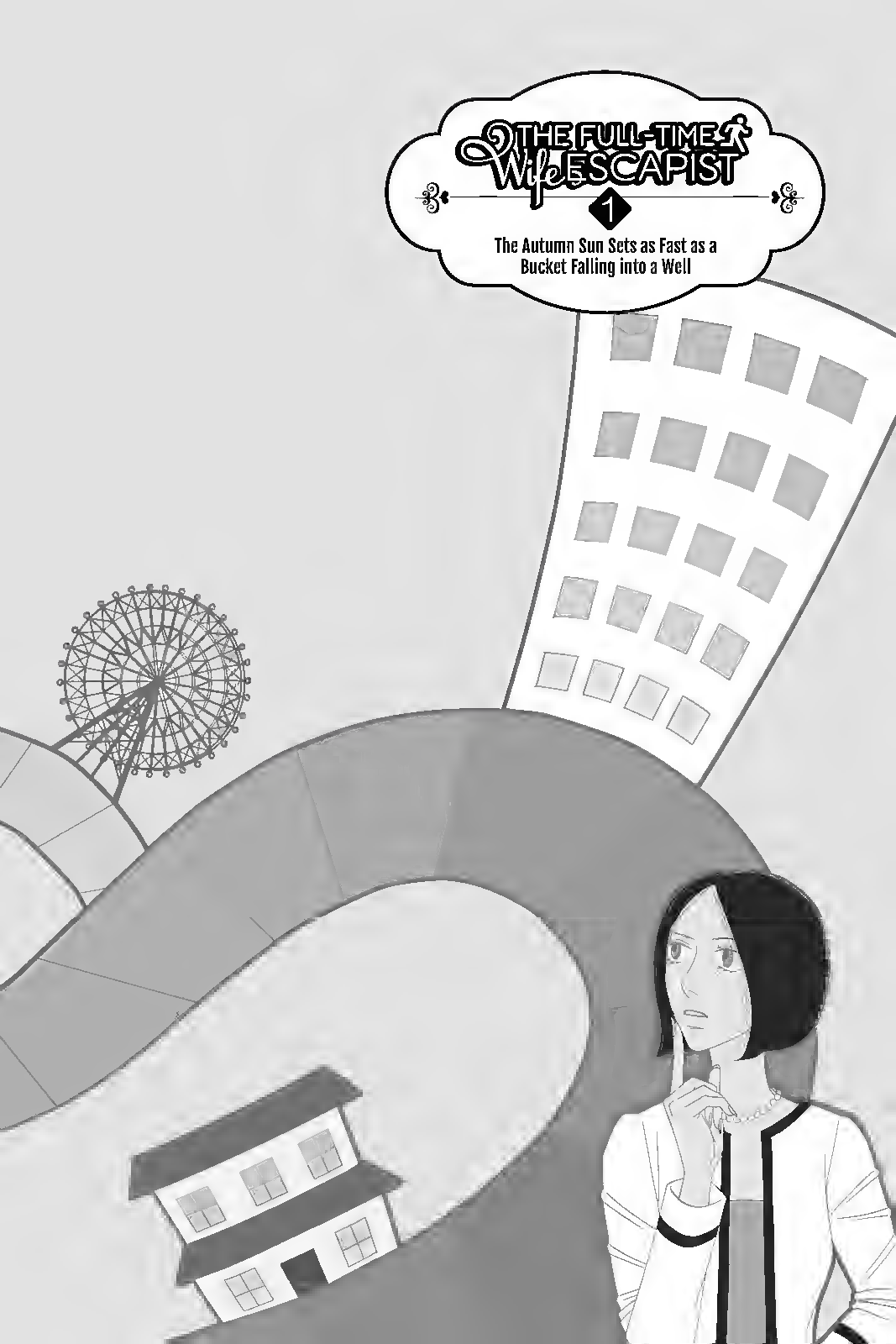
THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST

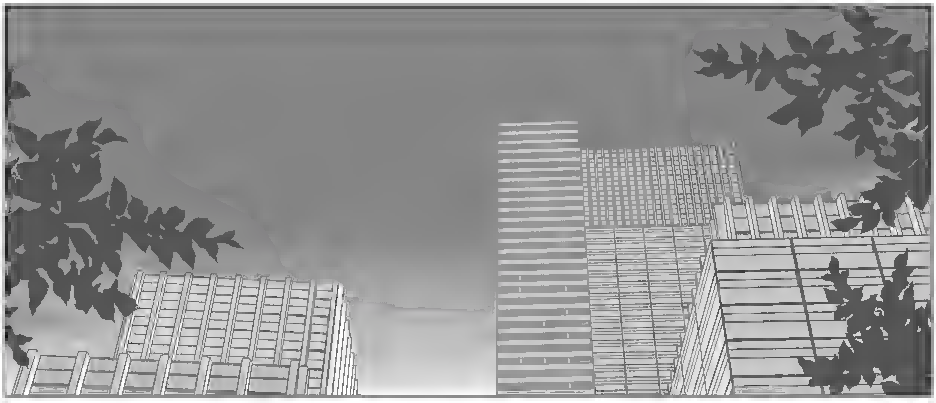
1

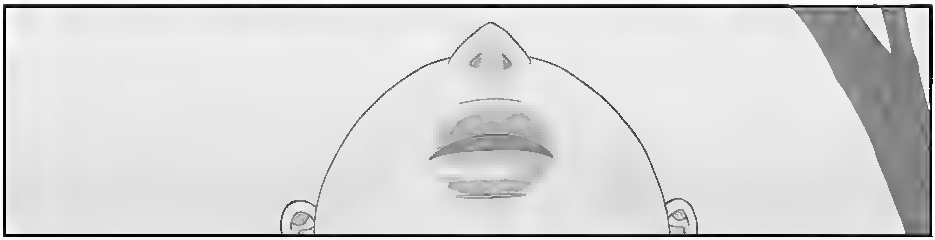
Tsunami Umino

Kodansha
Comics
Kiss
THE FULL-TIME
Wife ESCAPIST
VOLUME
1
Tsunami Umino

THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST
1
The Autumn Sun Sets as Fast as a Bucket Falling into a Well


THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST
1
The Autumn Sun Sets as Fast as a Bucket Falling into a Well

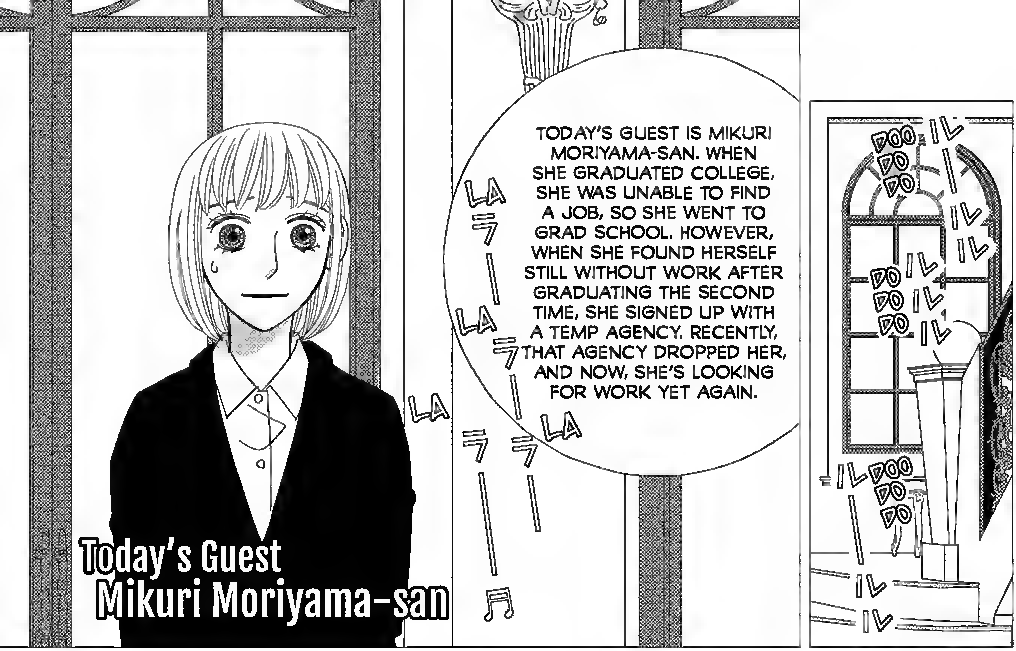




GOD.

IT FEELS BAD TO KNOW...

...THAT NO ONE NEEDS YOU.


Today's Guest
Mikuri Moriyama-san
TODAY'S GUEST IS MIKURI MORIYAMA-SAN. WHEN SHE GRADUATED COLLEGE, SHE WAS UNABLE TO FIND A JOB, SO SHE WENT TO GRAD SCHOOL. HOWEVER, WHEN SHE FOUND HERSELF STILL WITHOUT WORK AFTER GRADUATING THE SECOND TIME, SHE SIGNED UP WITH A TEMP AGENCY. RECENTLY, THAT AGENCY DROPPED HER, AND NOW, SHE'S LOOKING FOR WORK YET AGAIN.
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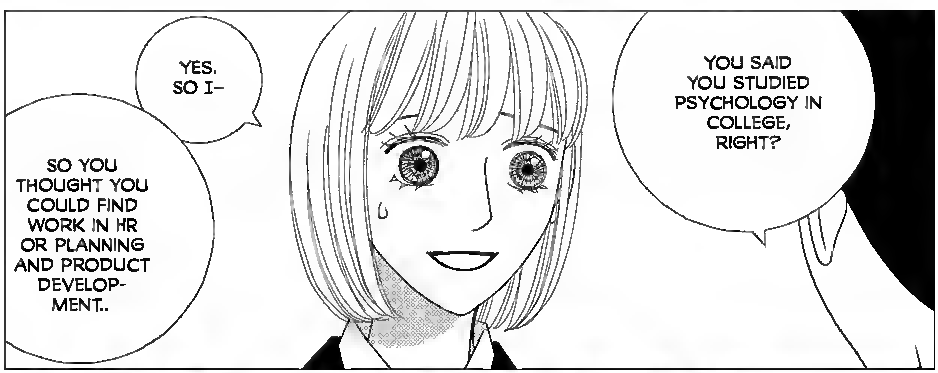
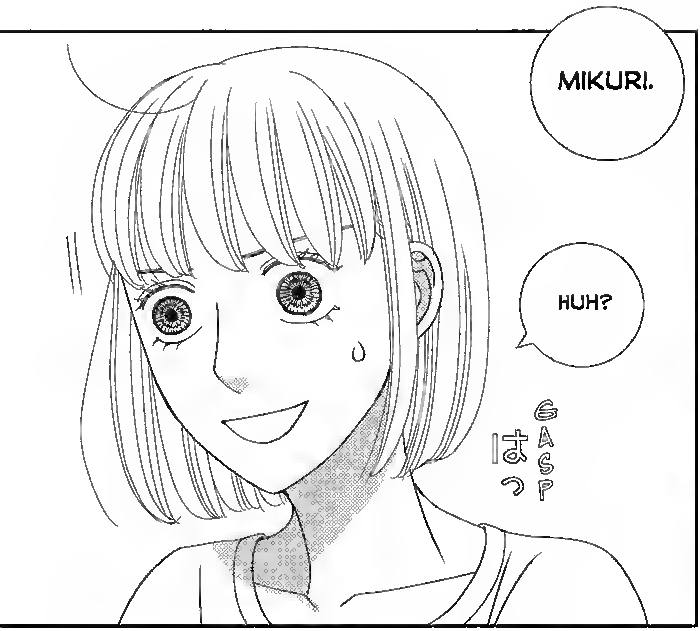
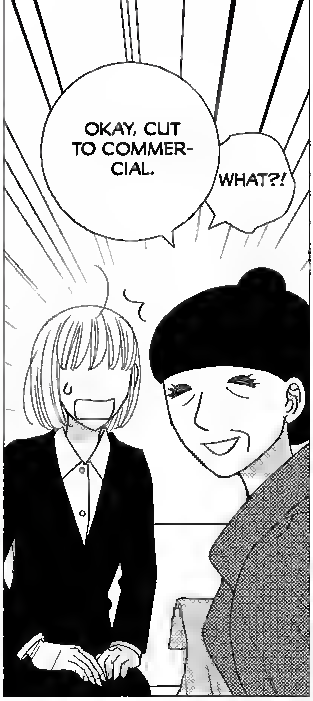
DOO DO DO

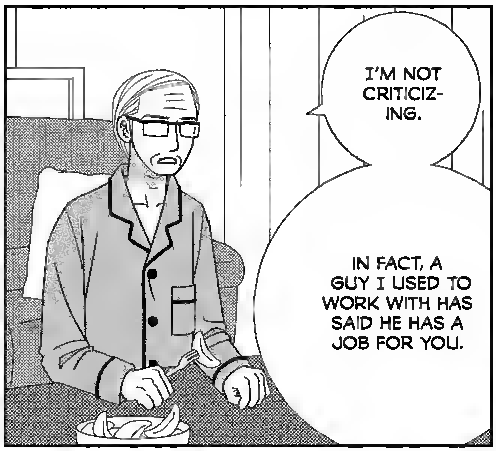

YOU SAID YOU STUDIED PSYCHOLOGY IN COLLEGE, RIGHT?
YES. SO I–
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD FIND WORK IN HR OR PLANNING AND PRODUCT DEVELOP-MENT..

...BUT YOU, HEH. EXCUSE ME. BUT YOU FAILED COMPLETELY, RIGHT?
EXACTLY. LOOKING BACK, I GUESS I COULD HAVE TRIED TO WIDEN–
AND SO, YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GO TO GRAD SCHOOL THAN SIT AROUND UNEMPLOYED. I NOTE, THOUGH, THAT YOU WENT TO A HUMANITIES-ORIENTED SCHOOL. WOULDN'T CHOOSING SUCH A SCHOOL JUST MAKE YOUR JOB SEARCH HARDER?
Mikuri Moriyama
Hasn't been able to find a job in years

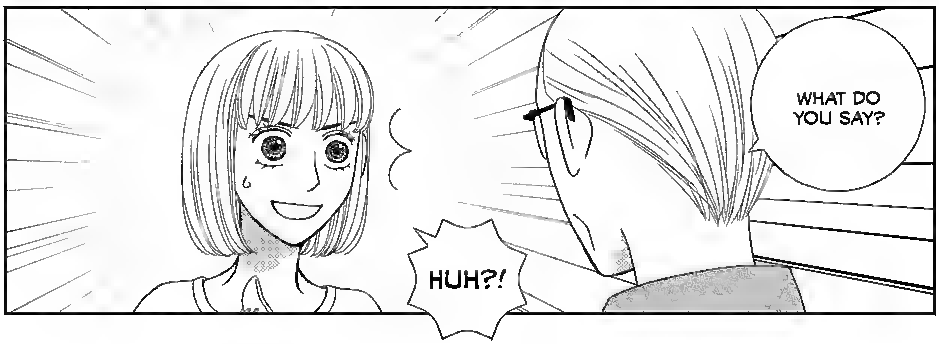
SO YOU SIGNED UP WITH A TEMP AGENCY AFTER GRADUATING. I'M SURE YOU WERE EMBARRASSED TO FIND YOURSELF IN THAT SITUATION, CONSIDERING YOUR LEVEL OF EDUCATION.
NO, WELL, I MEAN–
BUT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND ANY JOBS AS A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR OR A SCHOOL COUNSELOR, WERE YOU?
WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN SAY THAT JUST BECAUSE THEY FOCUS ON THE HUMANITIES. IN GRAD SCHOOL, I BECAME LICENSED AS A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, SO I THINK IF I COULD JUST FIND–
...BUT–
AND NOW, THE TEMP AGENCY HAS LET YOU GO AND YOU'RE STUCK LOOKING FOR A JOB AGAIN, RIGHT?
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WASN'T A LITTLE EMBARRASSED AT FIRST...
HEH, YOU MUST REALLY LIKE LOOKING FOR WORK.
...YES.

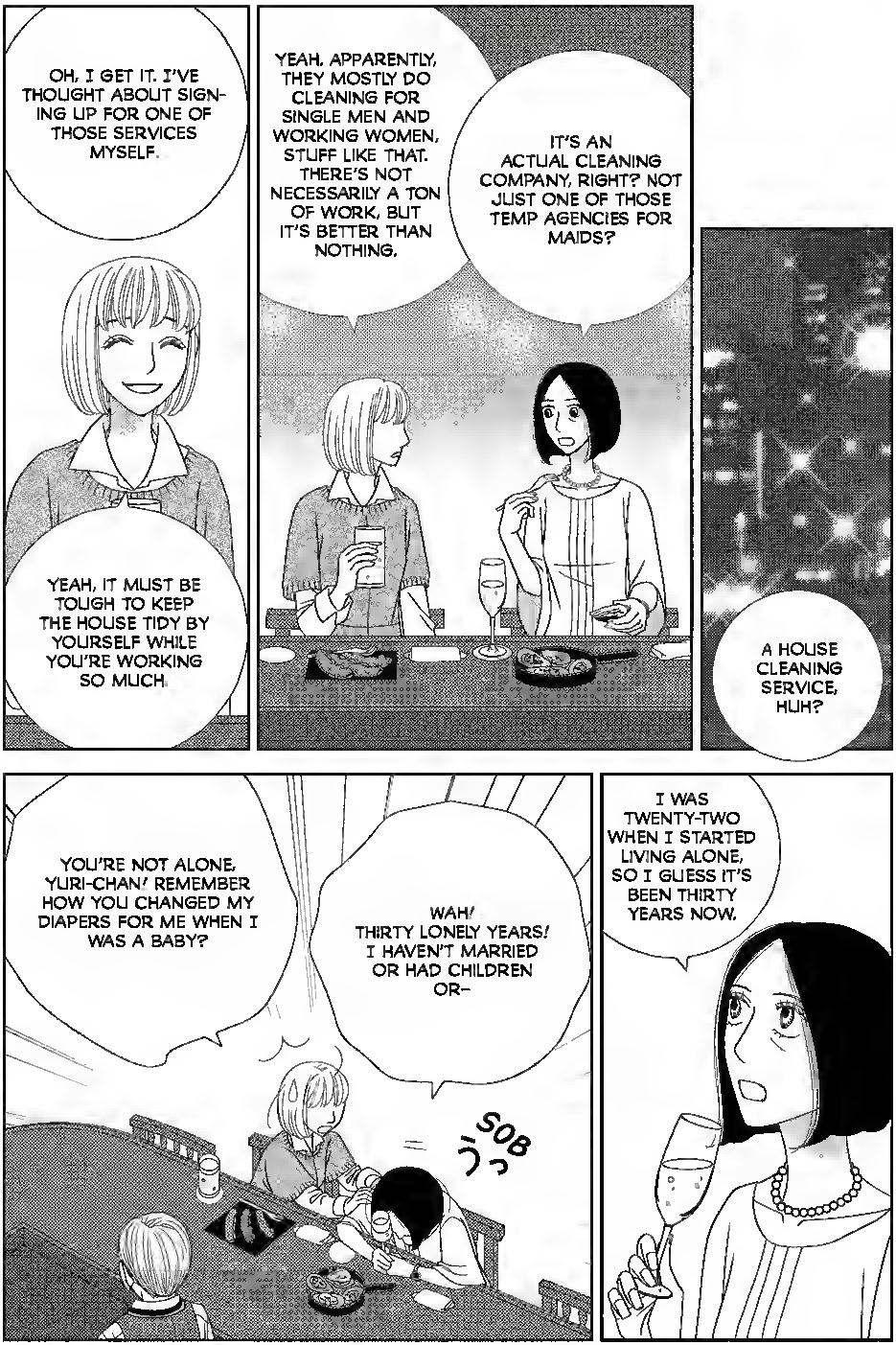

MIKURI.
HUH?
はっ
GASP

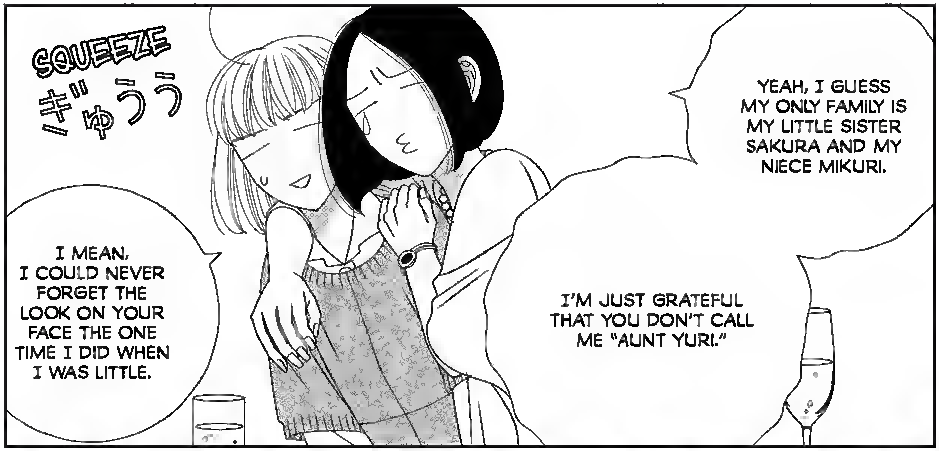

OKAY, CUT TO COMMER-CIAL.
WHAT?!


I'M NOT CRITICIZ-ING.
IN FACT, A GUY I USED TO WORK WITH HAS SAID HE HAS A JOB FOR YOU.

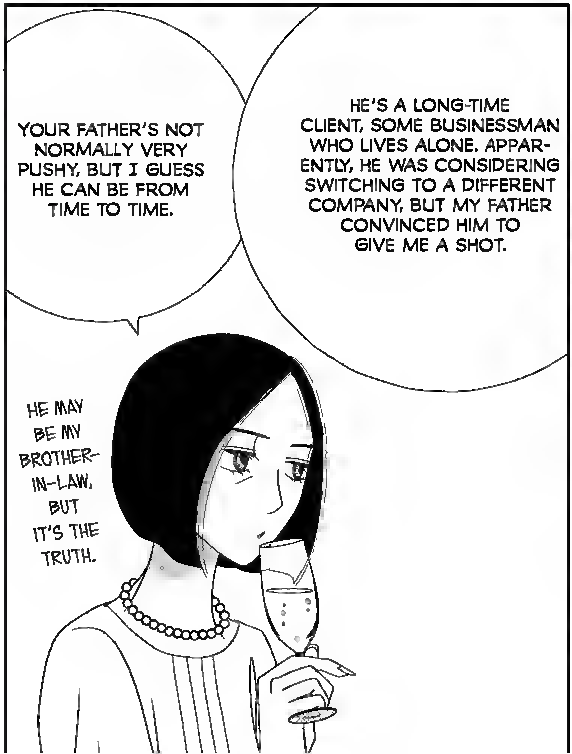
IS IT THAT HARD TO FIND A JOB?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING MUCH LATELY.
NOW, DEAR.

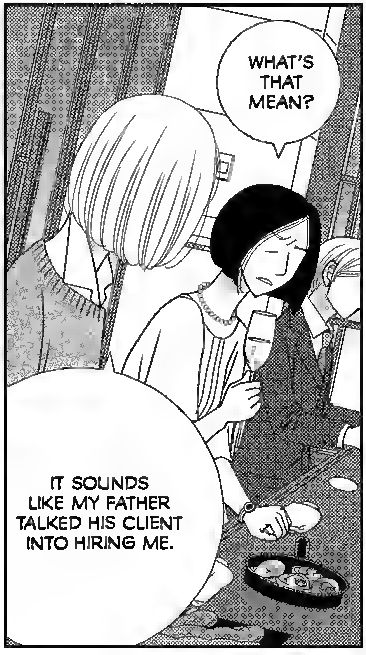

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HUH?!


OH, I GET IT. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT SIGNING UP FOR ONE OF THOSE SERVICES MYSELF.
YEAH, IT MUST BE TOUGH TO KEEP THE HOUSE TIDY BY YOURSELF WHILE YOU'RE WORKING SO MUCH.
YEAH. APPARENTLY, THEY MOSTLY DO CLEANING FOR SINGLE MEN AND WORKING WOMEN, STUFF LIKE THAT. THERE'S NOT NECESSARILY A TON OF WORK, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
IT'S AN ACTUAL CLEANING COMPANY, RIGHT? NOT JUST ONE OF THOSE TEMP AGENCIES FOR MAIDS?
A HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE, HUH?
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, YURI-CHAN! REMEMBER HOW YOU CHANGED MY DIAPERS FOR ME WHEN I WAS A BABY?
WAH! THIRTY LONELY YEARS! I HAVEN'T MARRIED OR HAD CHILDREN OR–
SOB
I WAS TWENTY-TWO WHEN I STARTED LIVING ALONE, SO I GUESS IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS NOW.


SQUEEZE
ぎゅうう
I MEAN, I COULD NEVER FORGET THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE THE ONE TIME I DID WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
YEAH, I GUESS MY ONLY FAMILY IS MY LITTLE SISTER SAKURA AND MY NIECE MIKURI.
I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT YOU DON'T CALL ME "AUNT YURI."

NO, I'M BEING CONTRACTED ON A "PERSONAL BASIS."
ANYWAY, IS THIS JOB GOING TO OFFER YOU A FOOT IN THE DOOR AT THIS CLEANING COMPANY?

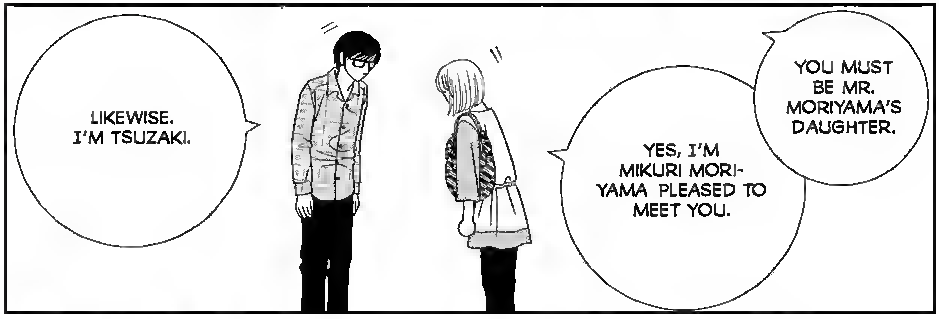

YOUR FATHER'S NOT NORMALLY VERY PUSHY, BUT I GUESS HE CAN BE FROM TIME TO TIME.
HE'S A LONG-TIME CLIENT, SOME BUSINESSMAN WHO LIVES ALONE. APPARENTLY, HE WAS CONSIDERING SWITCHING TO A DIFFERENT COMPANY, BUT MY FATHER CONVINCED HIM TO GIVE ME A SHOT.
HE MAY BE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

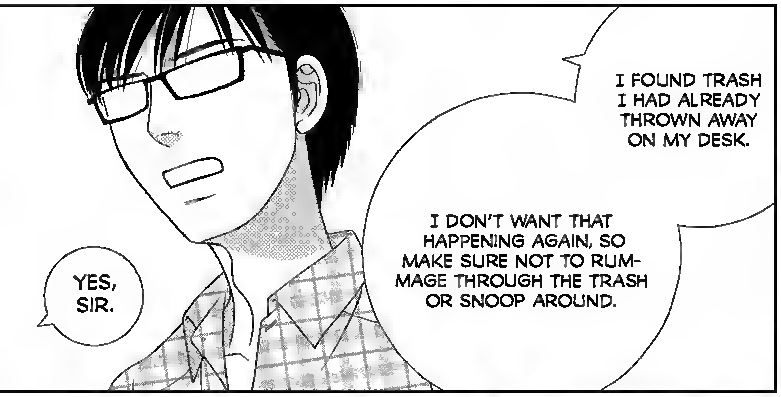

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
IT SOUNDS LIKE MY FATHER TALKED HIS CLIENT INTO HIRING ME.

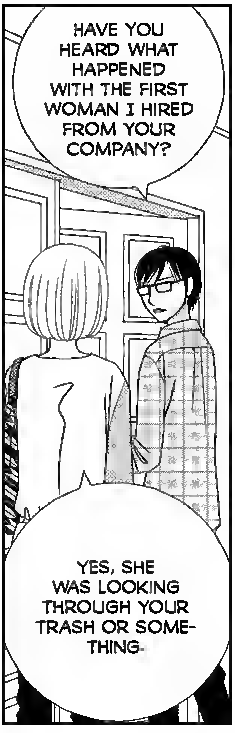
IF I LOST MY JOB AND COULDN'T PAY RENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, I'D JUST DIE IN THE GUTTER.
YURI-CHAN! IF THAT HAPPENS, JUST COME AND STAY WITH US!
BUT WHERE WOULD I PUT MY BELOVED DESIGNER SOFA?!
SO WHAT WILL THE WORK BE LIKE?
I'LL BE CLEANING HIS PLACE WHILE HE'S OUT ONCE A WEEK. EACH SHIFT WILL BE THREE HOURS, AND I'LL BE PAID 6,000 YEN FOR IT.*
TWO THOUSAND YEN AN HOUR, HUH? NOT BAD FOR A PART-TIME JOB
WELL, I'LL ONLY GET TO WORK FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A MONTH. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.
YEAH, BUT YOU LIVE WITH YOUR PARENTS.
GOOD MORNING!

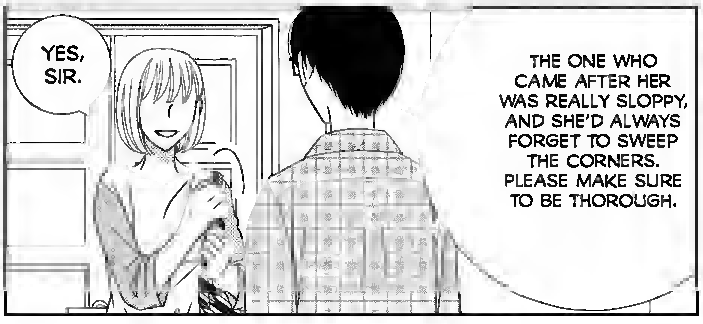
* ABOUT 60 DOLLARS

HELLO.


LIKEWISE. I'M TSUZAKI.
YES, I'M MIKURI MORIYAMA PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
YOU MUST BE MR. MORIYAMA'S DAUGHTER.


YES, SIR.
I DON'T WANT THAT HAPPENING AGAIN, SO MAKE SURE NOT TO RUMMAGE THROUGH THE TRASH OR SNOOP AROUND.
I FOUND TRASH I HAD ALREADY THROWN AWAY ON MY DESK.


HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE FIRST WOMAN I HIRED FROM YOUR COMPANY?
YES, SHE WAS LOOKING THROUGH YOUR TRASH OR SOMETHING.


YES, SIR.
THE ONE WHO CAME AFTER HER WAS REALLY SLOPPY, AND SHE'D ALWAYS FORGET TO SWEEP THE CORNERS. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO BE THOROUGH.

IF I DON'T LIKE YOUR WORK THIS TIME, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU OR YOUR FATHER AGAIN. SO YES, I AM. I'VE ALREADY LET MR. MORIYAMA KNOW.
HERE'S YOUR PAY FOR TODAY.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, LOCK THE DOOR AND LEAVE THE KEY IN THE MAILBOX.
OH, YOU'RE PAYING IN ADVANCE?
BOW
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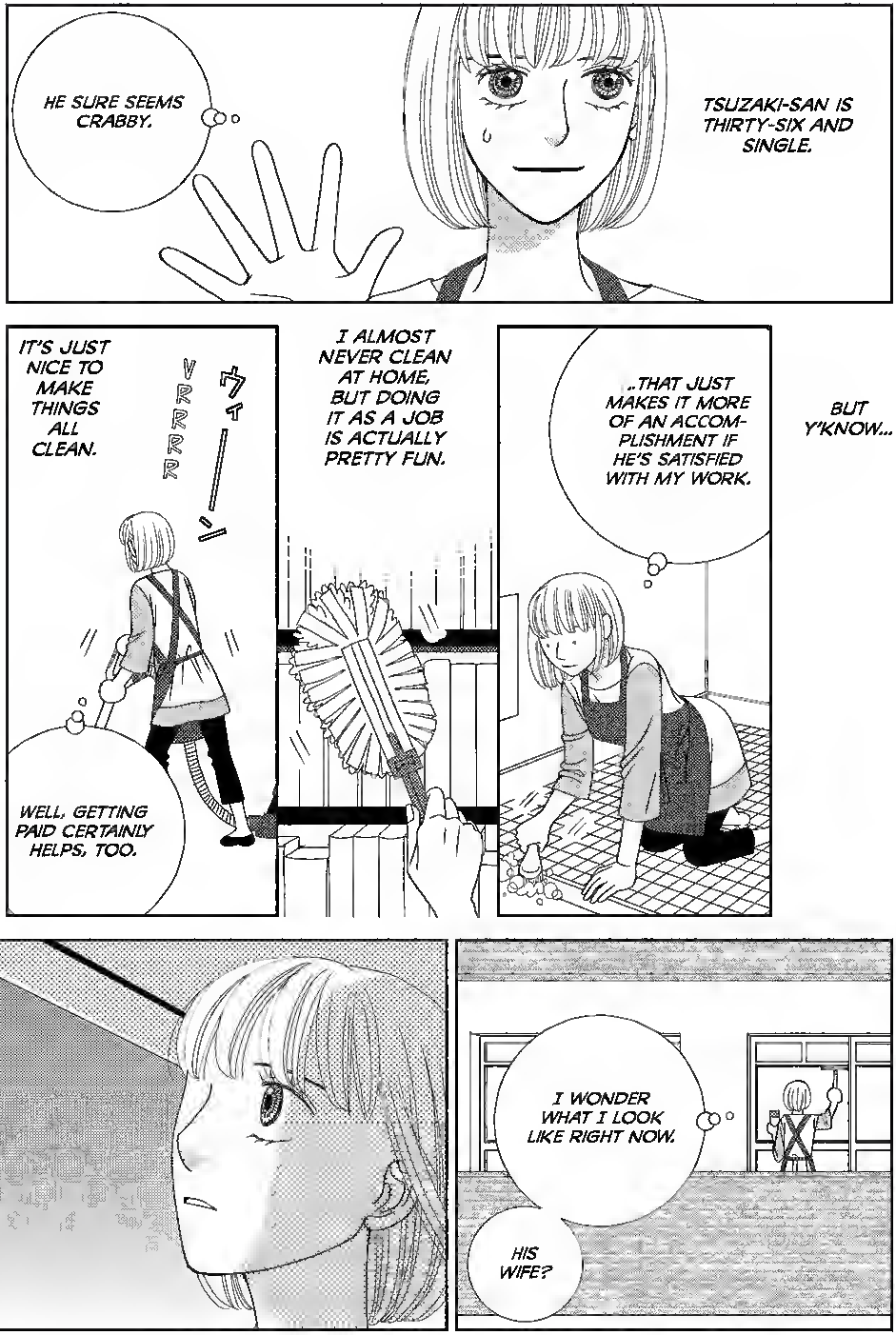
BYE NOW!
PLEASE BE SURE TO VACCUM, AND CLEAN THE BATHROOM, KITCHEN, AND WINDOWS.
YES, SIR.


HE SURE SEEMS CRABBY.
TSUZAKI-SAN IS THIRTY-SIX AND SINGLE.
BUT Y'KNOW...
..THAT JUST MAKES IT MORE OF AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IF HE'S SATISFIED WITH MY WORK.
I ALMOST NEVER CLEAN AT HOME, BUT DOING IT AS A JOB IS ACTUALLY PRETTY FUN.
IT'S JUST NICE TO MAKE THINGS ALL CLEAN.
ウィーン
VRRRR
WELL, GETTING PAID CERTAINLY HELPS, TOO.
I WONDER WHAT I LOOK LIKE RIGHT NOW.
HIS WIFE?

THEN AGAIN, I CAN HUM AS I WORK NOW...

...BUT MARRIAGE MIGHT TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF IT.

IF I GOT MARRIED, THAT WOULD BE LIKE AN ETERNAL JOB. MAYBE I COULD ESCAPE FROM THIS SPIRAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE HAD A BOYFRIEND IN YEARS.

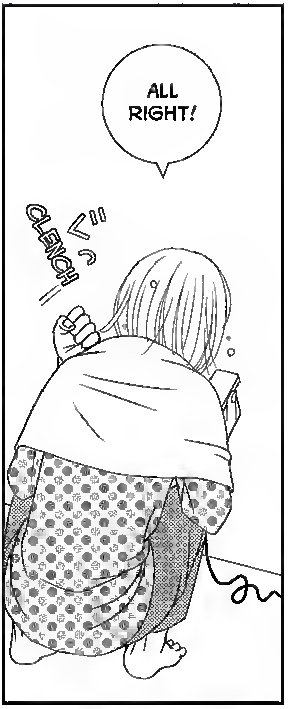
From: Tsuzaki-san
Date: 09/26 9:03 P.M.
Subject: Next Week

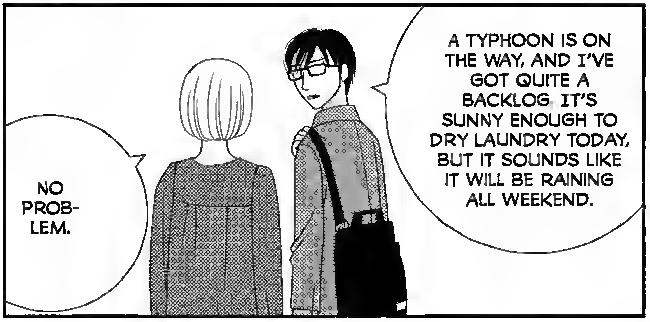
I'll be seeing you.

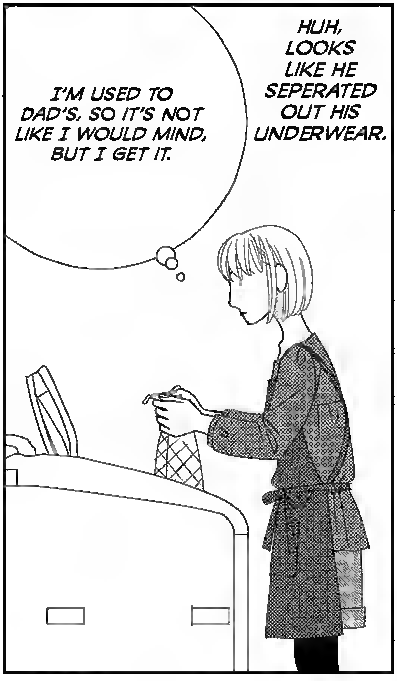
Tsuzaki

BZ BZ BZ

I DON'T NEED YOU TO CLEAN THE WINDOWS TODAY, SO WOULD YOU MIND DOING THE LAUNDRY?


ALL RIGHT!
CLENCH


A TYPHOON IS ON THE WAY, AND I'VE GOT QUITE A BACKLOG. IT'S SUNNY ENOUGH TO DRY LAUNDRY TODAY, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WILL BE RAINING ALL WEEKEND.
NO PROB-LEM.


HUH, LOOKS LIKE HE SEPERATED OUT HIS UNDERWEAR.
I'M USED TO DAD'S, SO IT'S NOT LIKE I WOULD MIND, BUT I GET IT.

BYE NOW!

BOW
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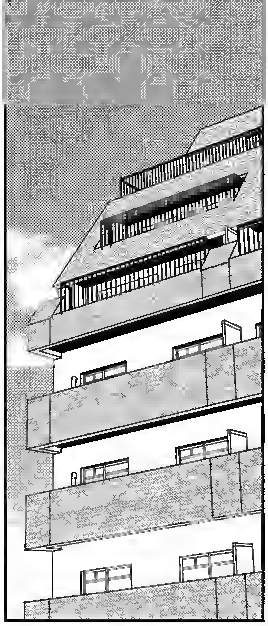
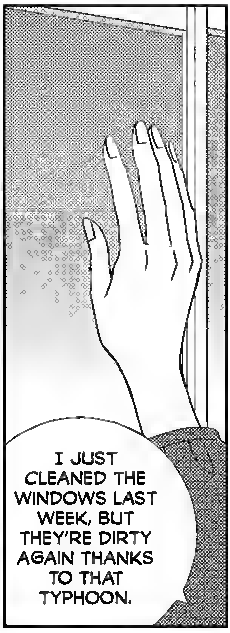
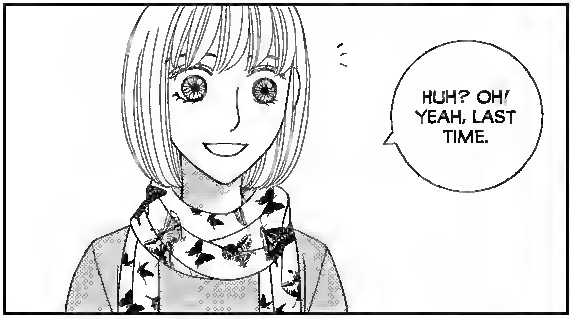
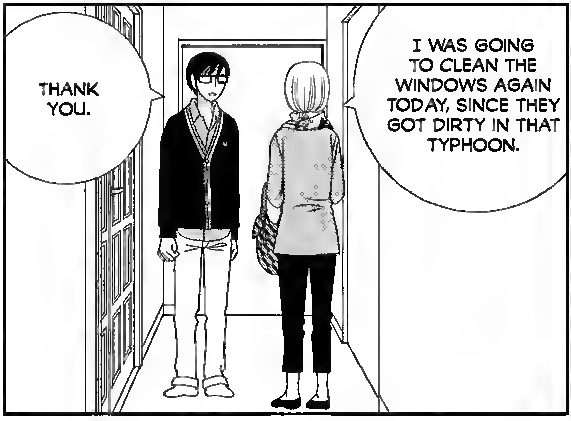


I'LL JUST CLEAN THE BUG SCREEN FOR NOW, SINCE ANOTHER ONE'S ON ITS WAY.
THE WINDOWS WILL JUST GET DIRTY AGAIN.


I JUST CLEANED THE WINDOWS LAST WEEK, BUT THEY'RE DIRTY AGAIN THANKS TO THAT TYPHOON.


HUH? OH! YEAH, LAST TIME.

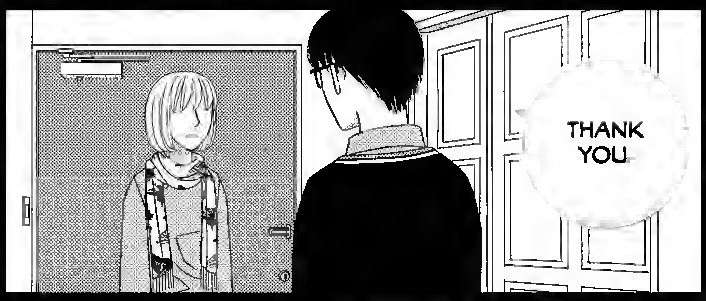
DID YOU CLEAN THE SCREENS ON MY WINDOWS AT SOME POINT?


I WAS GOING TO CLEAN THE WINDOWS AGAIN TODAY, SINCE THEY GOT DIRTY IN THAT TYPHOON.
THANK YOU.

IN SEPTEMBER...

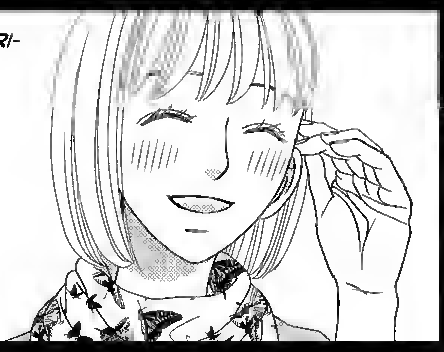
...IN A CERTAIN ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT...

...MIKURI RECEIVED HER FIRST WORDS OF GRADITUDE FROM A CLIENT.



AFTER FINISHING GRAD SCHOOL, SHE BEGAN WORKING FOR A TEMP AGENCY. NOW SHE'S BEEN LAID OFF, AND IS LOOKING FOR MORE WORK.

MEET MIKURI MORIYAMA. SHE'S TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

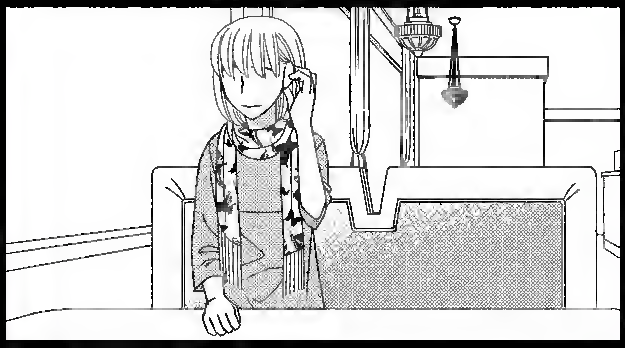


THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE SAW HER SMILE IN RELIEF.

IT'S EASIER TO KNOW HOW I'M DOING IF THE CLIENT DOESN'T BABY ME.
REALLY, IT'S EASIER TO WORK FOR A HARD-TO-PLEASE GUY LIKE TSUZAKI-SAN.

...SO WHY HAS SHE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR ALL THESE YEARS?

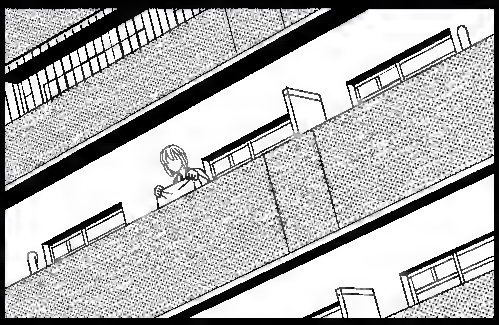
SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY HER WORK...



WITH THAT...

...SHE STOPPED TALKING.

AS USUAL, WE FIND HER ON THE BALCONY.

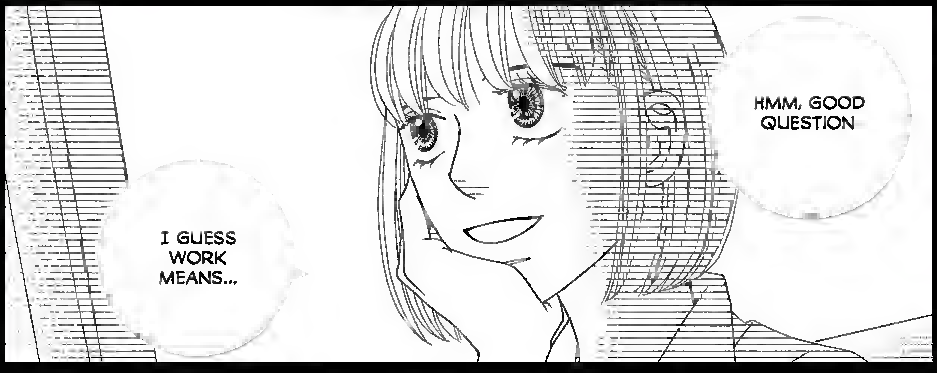


BY NOVEMBER, IT HAD BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE SHE STARTED HER JOB DOING HOUSEWORK.

I FEEL LIKE HE'S REALLY STARTING TO TRUST ME
THE OTHER DAY HE AGREED TO START HAVING MY PAY AUTOMAT ICALLY WITH DRAWN FROM HIS ACCOUNT

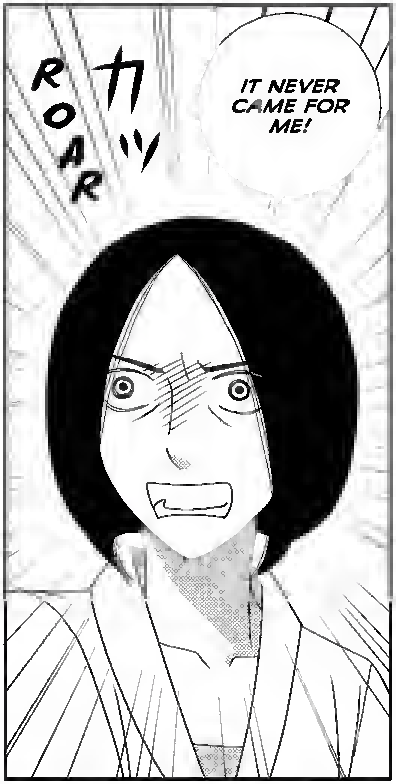
"MORIYAMA-SAN, WHAT DOES 'WORK' MEAN TO YOU?"

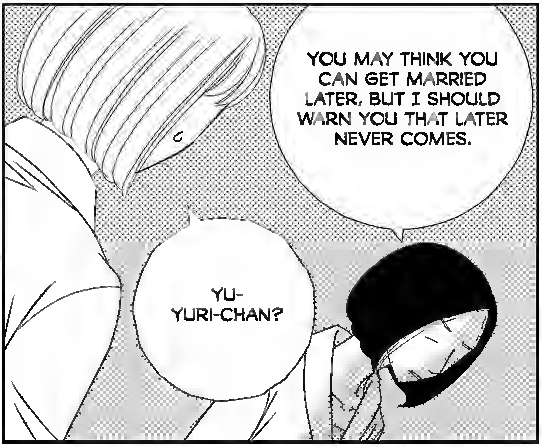
FINALLY, WE TRIED ASKING HER...

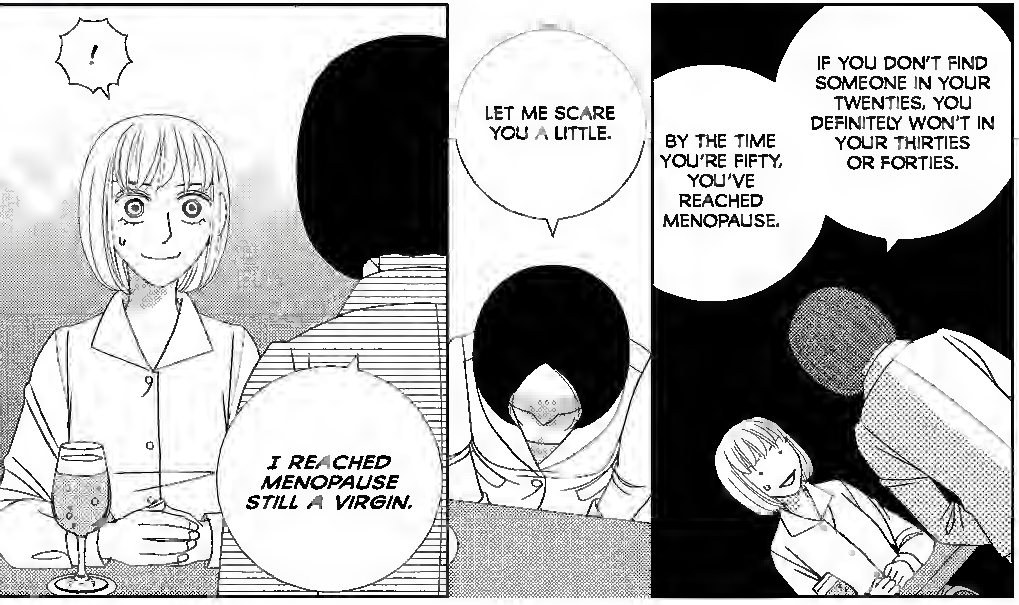


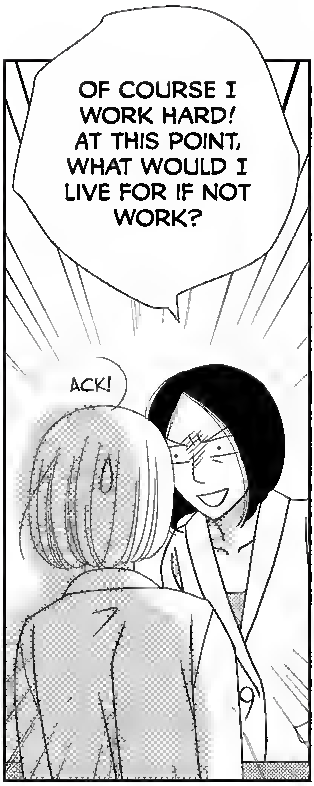
SO HOW'S WORK?
I'M HAVING FUN. HOUSEWORK TAKES MORE THOUGHT THAN I EXPECTED.
HEY, MIKURI! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
HEY, I GOT YOU SOMETHING FROM PARIS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YURI-CHAN! THE ENDING THEME BY TARO HAKASE WAS JUST ABOUT TO START.
THIS MAN IS A FAMOUS JAPANESE COMPOSER AND VIOLINIST
ANYWAY, I'M LOOKING FOR A REAL JOB, NOT MORE TEMP WORK.
NO, NOT AT ALL...
ANY LUCK?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR NEXT GIG YET?
TING
チーン
CHEERS!
OH. NO, NOT YET...

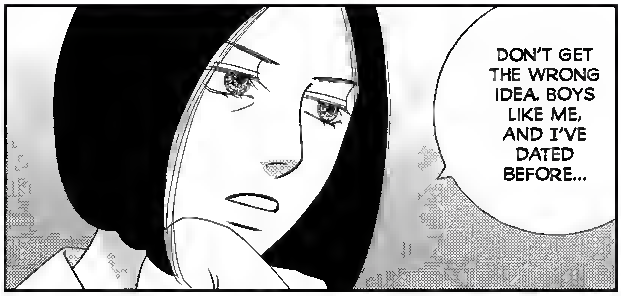
HOW ABOUT IF YOU JUST FOUND YOURSELF A BOYFRIEND TO MARRY AND BECAME A HOUSEWIFE?
NO WAY, I CAN DO THAT LATER. RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO WORK.

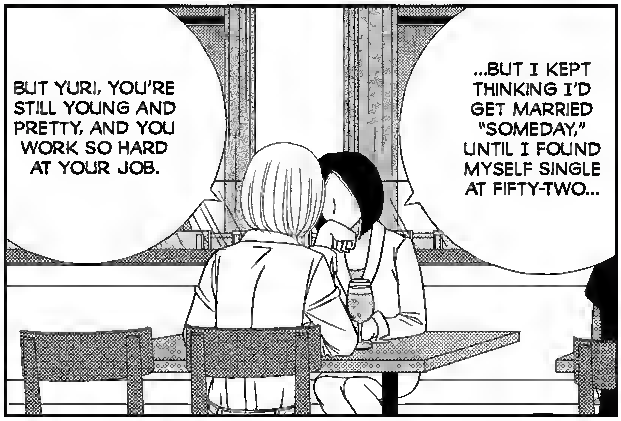

ROAR
IT NEVER CAME FOR ME!


YOU MAY THINK YOU CAN GET MARRIED LATER, BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT LATER NEVER COMES.
YU-YURI-CHAN?

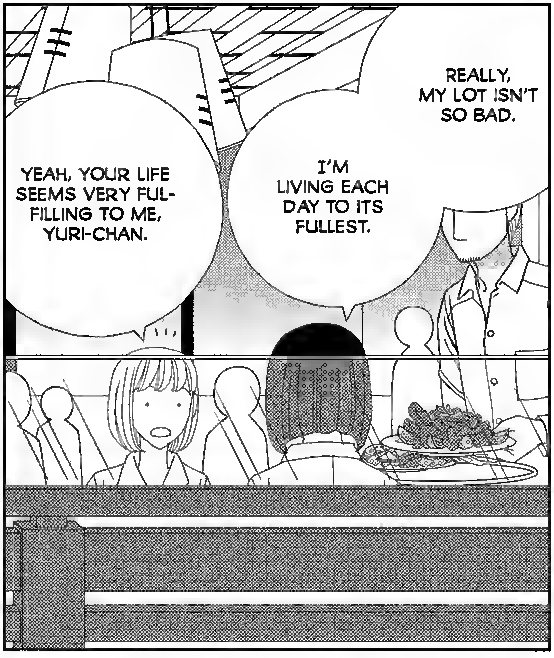

!
I REACHED MENOPAUSE STILL A VIRGIN.
LET ME SCARE YOU A LITTLE.
BY THE TIME YOU'RE FIFTY, YOU'VE REACHED MENOPAUSE.
IF YOU DON'T FIND SOMEONE IN YOUR TWENTIES, YOU DEFINITELY WON'T IN YOUR THIRTIES OR FORTIES.

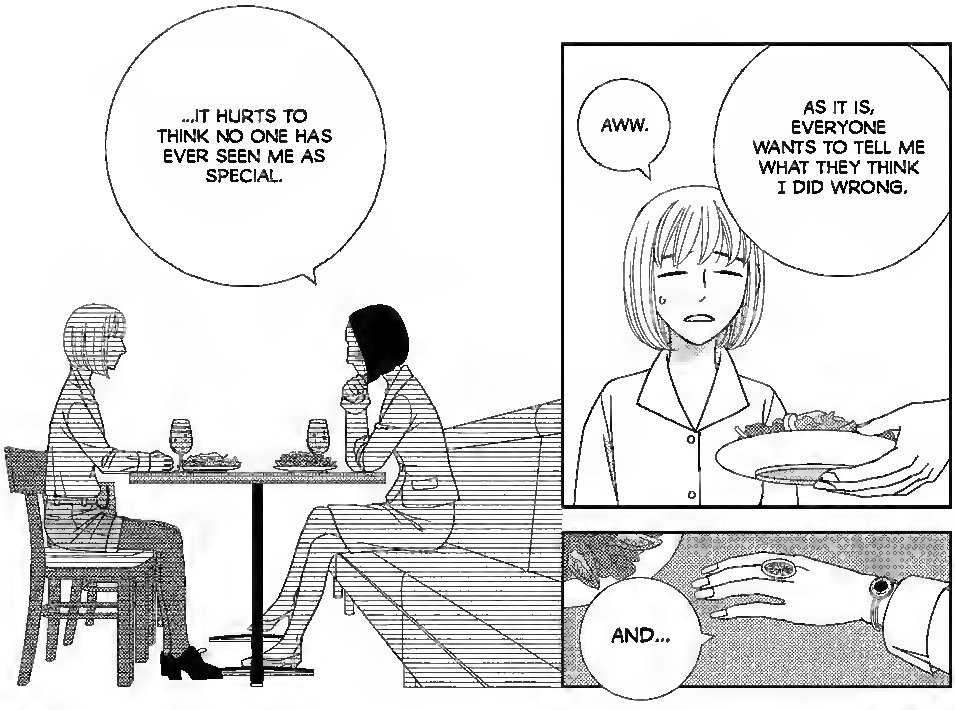

OF COURSE I WORK HARD! AT THIS POINT, WHAT WOULD I LIVE FOR IF NOT WORK?
ACK!

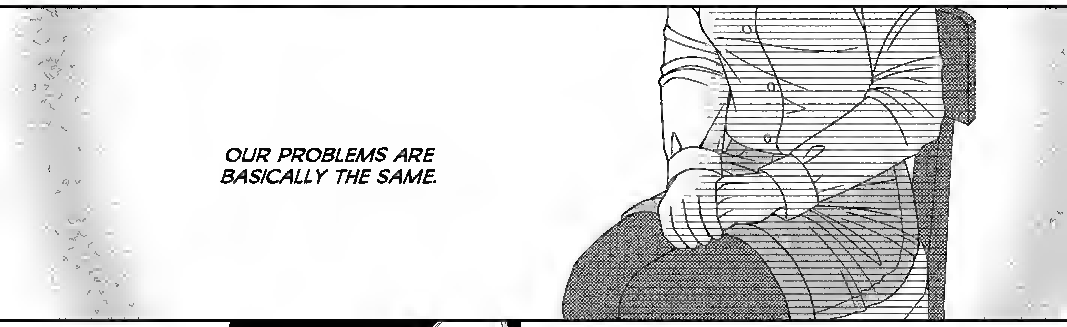

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. BOYS LIKE ME, AND I'VE DATED BEFORE...

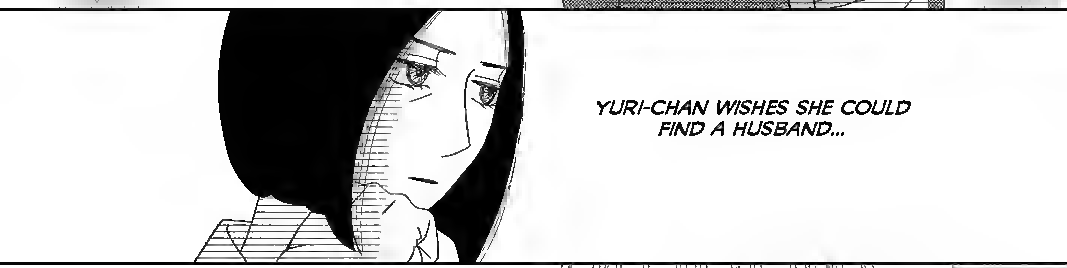

BUT YURI, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG AND PRETTY, AND YOU WORK SO HARD AT YOUR JOB.
...BUT I KEPT THINKING I'D GET MARRIED "SOMEDAY," UNTIL I FOUND MYSELF SINGLE AT FIFTY-TWO...

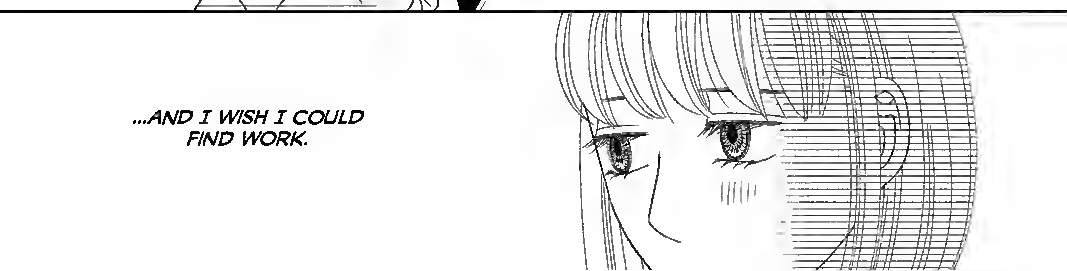
STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO HAVE MARRIED AND GOTTEN A DIVORCE THAN NEVER TO HAVE MARRIED AT ALL. IT MIGHT BE EASIER SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.


YEAH, YOUR LIFE SEEMS VERY FULFILLING TO ME, YURI-CHAN.
I'M LIVING EACH DAY TO ITS FULLEST.
REALLY, MY LOT ISN'T SO BAD.

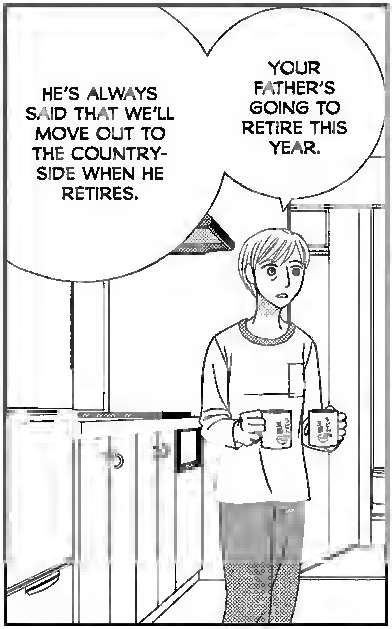

...IT HURTS TO THINK NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN ME AS SPECIAL.
AWW.
AS IT IS, EVERYONE WANTS TO TELL ME WHAT THEY THINK I DID WRONG.
AND...

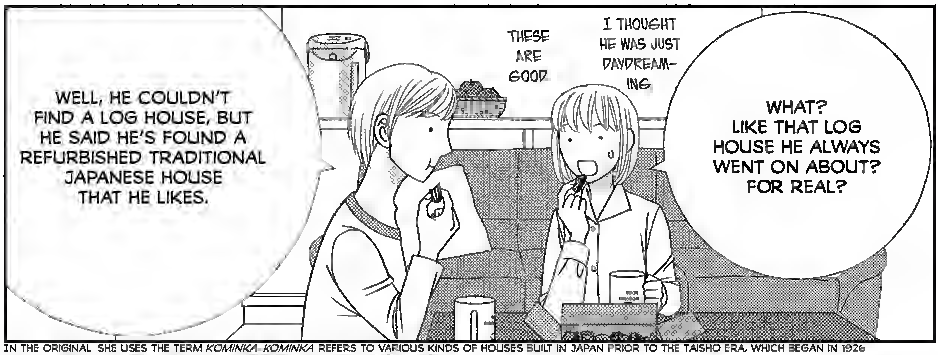

OUR PROBLEMS ARE BASICALLY THE SAME.


YURI-CHAN WISHES SHE COULD FIND A HUSBAND...

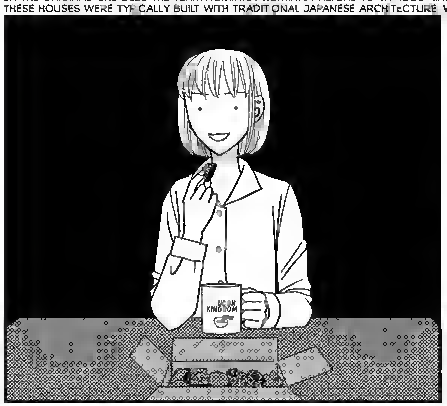

...AND I WISH I COULD FIND WORK.

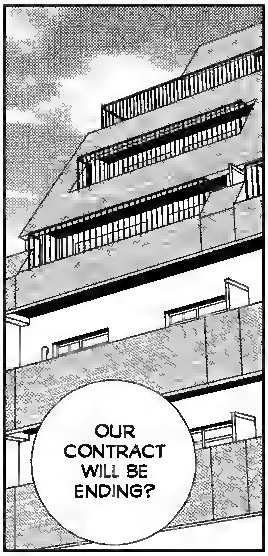
I GUESS EVERYONE WANTS TO FEEL NEEDED.
I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK. DID YOU GO OUT DRINKING WITH MY SISTER AGAIN?
YURI-CHAN GOT ME A SOUVENIR FROM PARIS
OH! THESE LOOK GOOD!
SHE GOT YOU GUYS SOME CHOCOLATES, TOO
YOU TWO GET ALONG SO WELL.

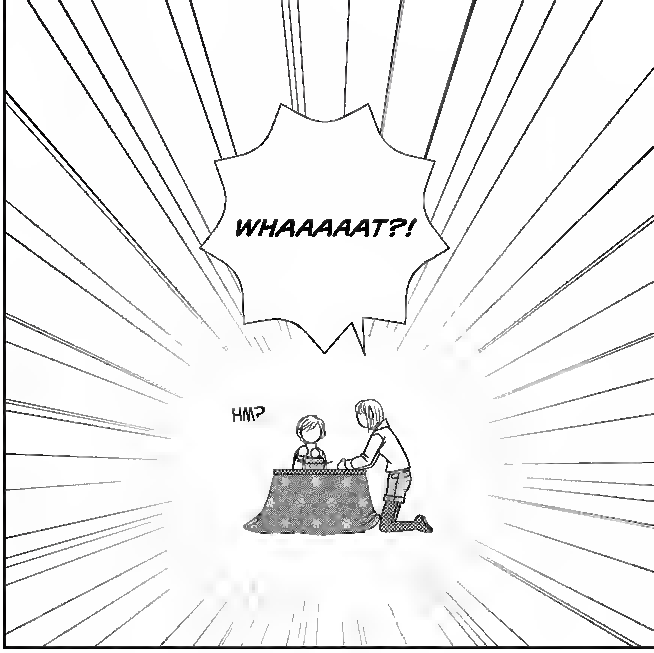


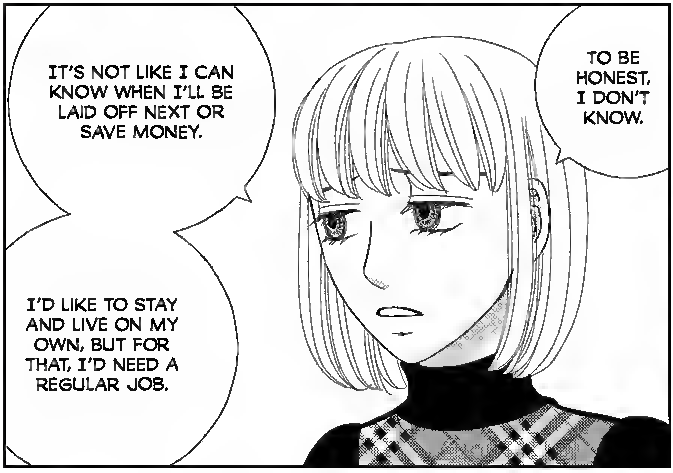

WELL, HE COULDN'T FIND A LOG HOUSE, BUT HE SAID HE'S FOUND A REFURBISHED TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOUSE THAT HE LIKES.
THESE ARE GOOD
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST DAYDREAM-ING.
WHAT? LIKE THAT LOG HOUSE HE ALWAYS WENT ON ABOUT? FOR REAL?

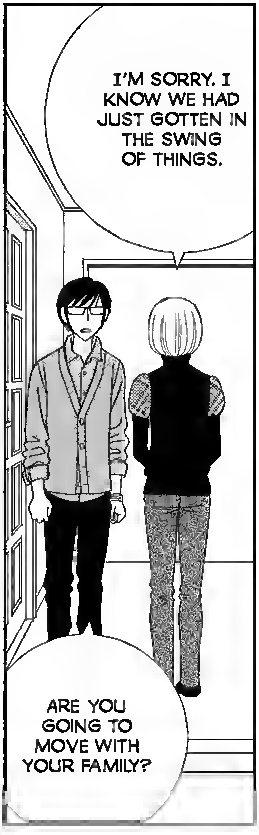
IN THE ORIGINAL SHE USES THE TERM *KOMINKA*. *KOMINKA* REFERS TO VARIOUS KINDS OF HOUSES BUILT IN JAPAN PRIOR TO THE TAISHO ERA, WHICH BEGAN IN 1926. THESE HOUSES WERE TYPICALLY BUILT WITH TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE, WHICH USES FEW OR NO NAILS.

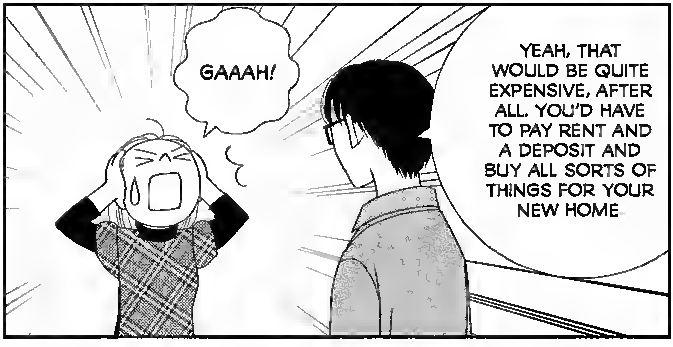



OUR CONTRACT WILL BE ENDING?


WHAAAAAT?!
HM?

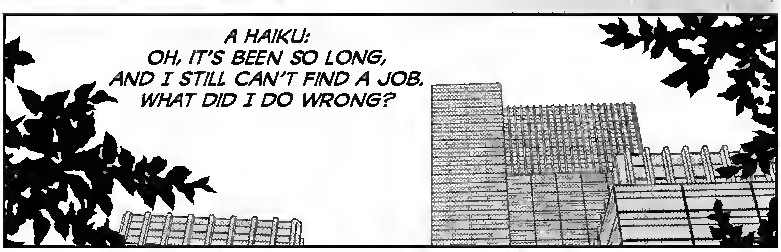

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN KNOW WHEN I'LL BE LAID OFF NEXT OR SAVE MONEY.
I'D LIKE TO STAY AND LIVE ON MY OWN, BUT FOR THAT, I'D NEED A REGULAR JOB.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW.

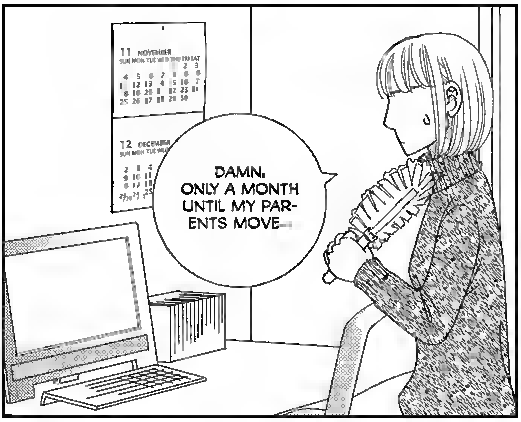

I'M SORRY. I KNOW WE HAD JUST GOTTEN IN THE SWING OF THINGS.
ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE WITH YOUR FAMILY?

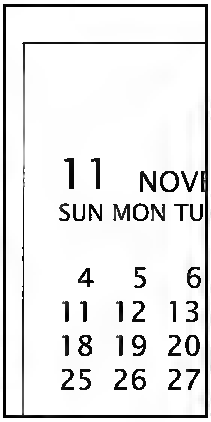

GAAAH!
YEAH, THAT WOULD BE QUITE EXPENSIVE, AFTER ALL. YOU'D HAVE TO PAY RENT AND A DEPOSIT AND BUY ALL SORTS OF THINGS FOR YOUR NEW HOME

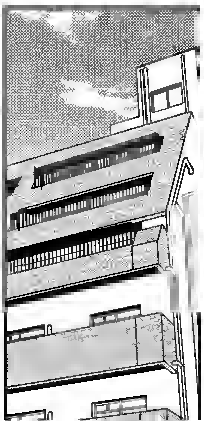
I COULD SEE US BEING LIKE, "WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST STAY THIS WAY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!"
THEN AGAIN, IF I START DOING HOUSEWORK FOR HER AND GET INTO IT, WE MIGHT BOTH GET TOO USED TO THAT ARRANGEMENT TO EVER END IT.
THAT'S SCARY.

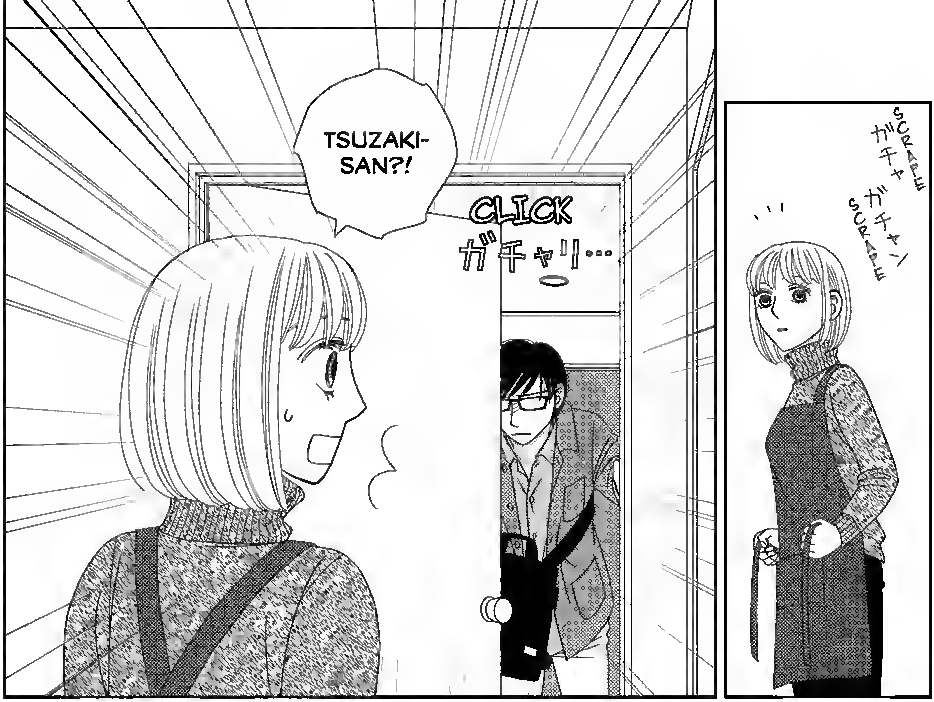
MAYBE I COULD STAY WITH YURI-CHAN WHILE I SAVE MONEY.

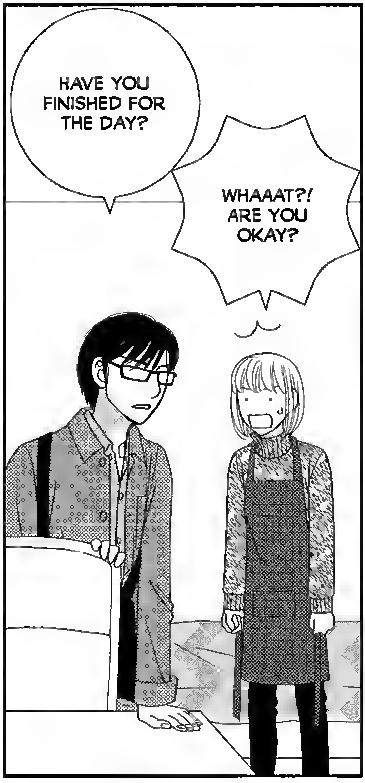


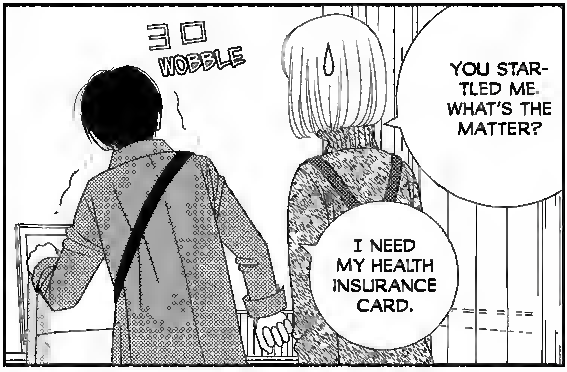


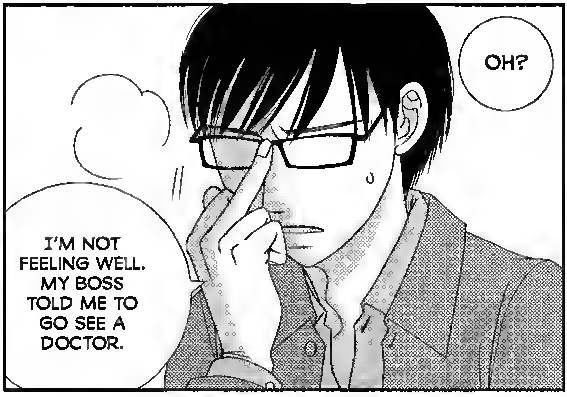




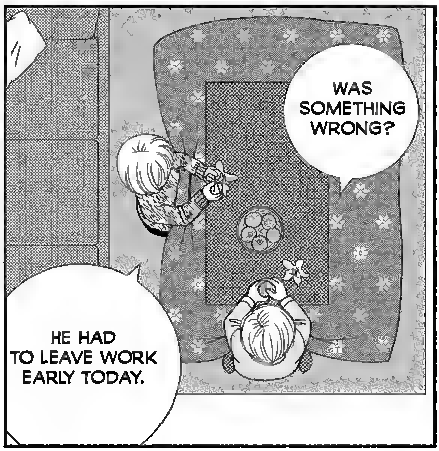

TSUZAKI-SAN?!
CLICK
ガチャ!…
SURARI
ガチャ
ガチャン
SURARI


HAVE YOU FINISHED FOR THE DAY?
WHAAAT?! ARE YOU OKAY?

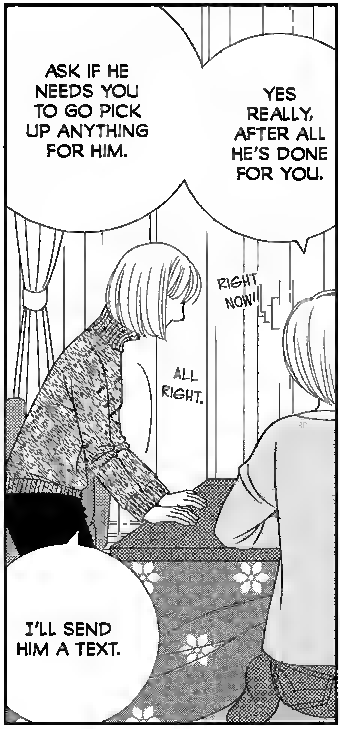

ヨロ
WOBBLE
YOU STARTLED ME. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I NEED MY HEALTH INSURANCE CARD.

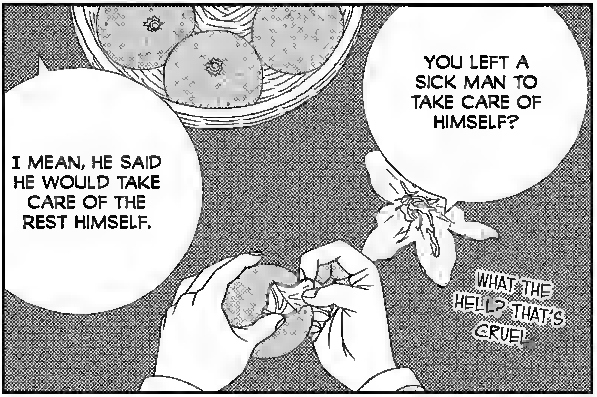

OH?
I'M NOT FEELING WELL. MY BOSS TOLD ME TO GO SEE A DOCTOR.

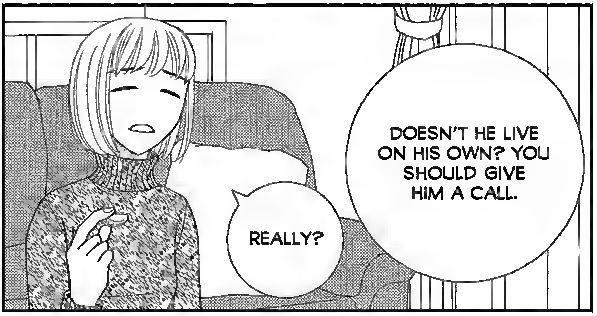
I HOPE TSUZAKI-SAN'S OKAY.


WAS SOMETHING WRONG?
HE HAD TO LEAVE WORK EARLY TODAY.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST MYSELF.
THEN PLEASE DO.
OH! YES, I WAS ABOUT TO GO HOME.


ASK IF HE NEEDS YOU TO GO PICK UP ANYTHING FOR HIM.
YES REALLY, AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR YOU.
RIGHT NOW!
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL SEND HIM A TEXT.


I MEAN, HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE REST HIMSELF.
YOU LEFT A SICK MAN TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF?
WHAT THE HELL? THAT'S CRUEL!


REALLY?
DOESN'T HE LIVE ON HIS OWN? YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM A CALL.

From: Tsuzaki-san

Date: 11/28 1:13 P.M.

Subject: Re: Are you okay?

Would you bring me a thermometer and some ice cream? Bring the receipt, too, please.

"AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR ME"? I MEAN, HE'S JUST MY BOSS.

AT LEAST MAKE HIM SOME KAYU!

OKAY, OKAY!

THIS IS A PORRIDGE MADE BY COOKING RICE IN A LARGER AMOUNT OF WATER THAN USUAL. IN ENGLISH, IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED CONGEE

TAKE HIM SOME ORANGES.

SEE?! I TOLD YOU!

I THOUGHT HE'D SAY HE'S FINE, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY ASKING ME TO BUY HIM SOME THINGS.

HE MUST FEEL AWFUL.

BZ BZ BZ

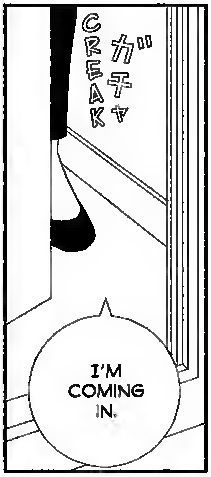
ピンポーン

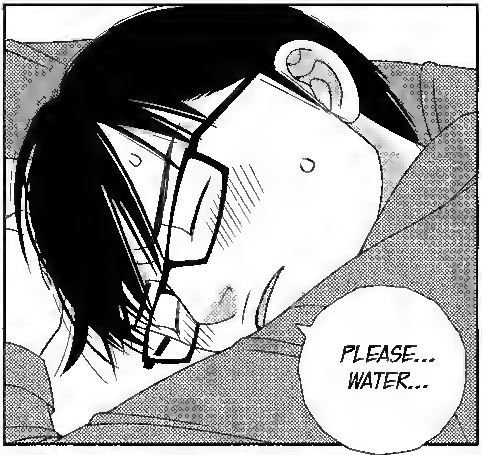
EXCUSE ME!

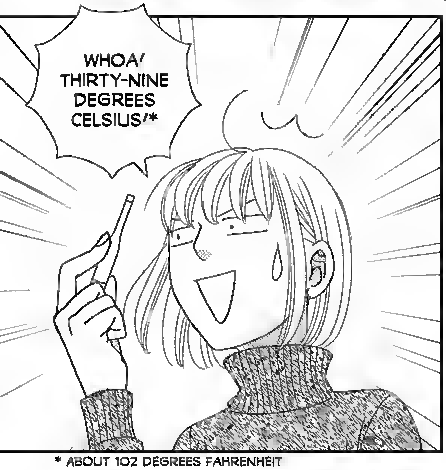
TSUZAKI-SAN? IT'S MORIYAMA.

ガチャ CLICK

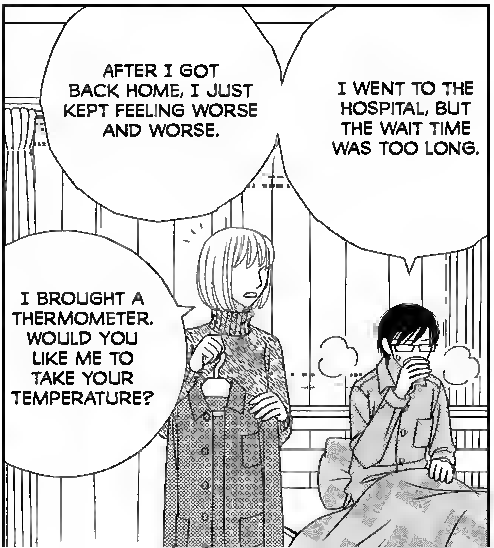
IT'S UN-LOCKED...

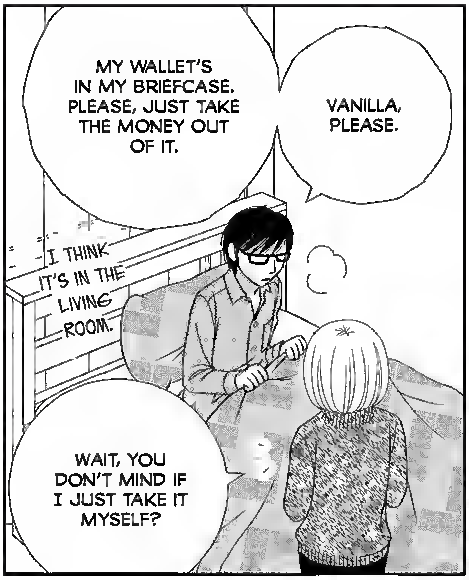


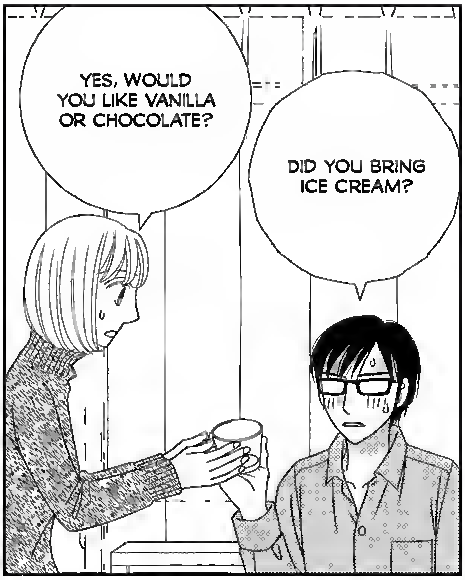


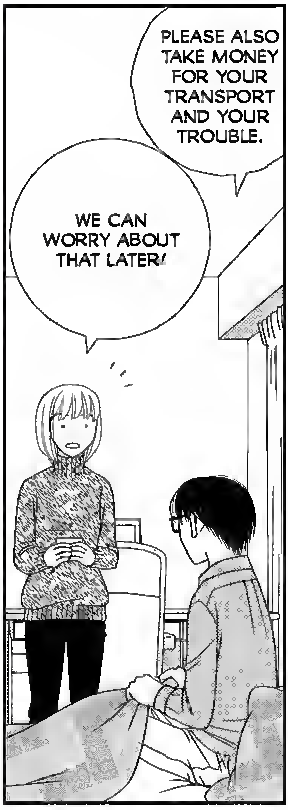


* ABOUT 102 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

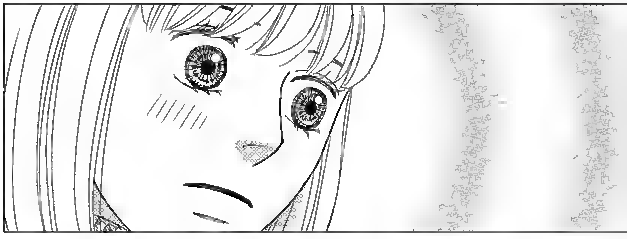

AFTER I GOT BACK HOME, I JUST KEPT FEELING WORSE AND WORSE.
I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, BUT THE WAIT TIME WAS TOO LONG.
I BROUGHT A THERMOMETER. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE?


MY WALLET'S IN MY BRIEFCASE. PLEASE, JUST TAKE THE MONEY OUT OF IT.
VANILLA, PLEASE.
I THINK IT'S IN THE LIVING ROOM.
WAIT, YOU DON'T MIND IF I JUST TAKE IT MYSELF?


YES, WOULD YOU LIKE VANILLA OR CHOCOLATE?
DID YOU BRING ICE CREAM?

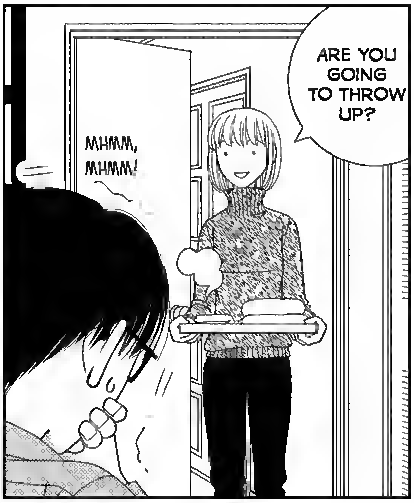

PLEASE ALSO TAKE MONEY FOR YOUR TRANSPORT AND YOUR TROUBLE.
WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!

I TRUST YOU, MORI-YAMA-SAN.

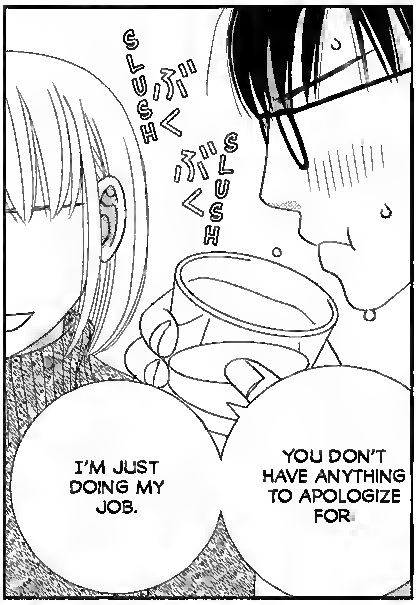


ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE WILLING TO COMPENSATE ME FOR ALL THAT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU.
LET'S START BY WIPING YOUR BODY DOWN AND CHANGING YOUR CLOTHES.
I'LL GO GET SOME HOT TOWELS.
NOW, WHERE ARE THOSE PAJAMAS?
SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ
I CAN'T JUST OPEN HIS UNDERWEAR DRAWER WITHOUT PERMISSION.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T NEED A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR.
EEP! HOT!
CLICK
カチャ
ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING IN.
?

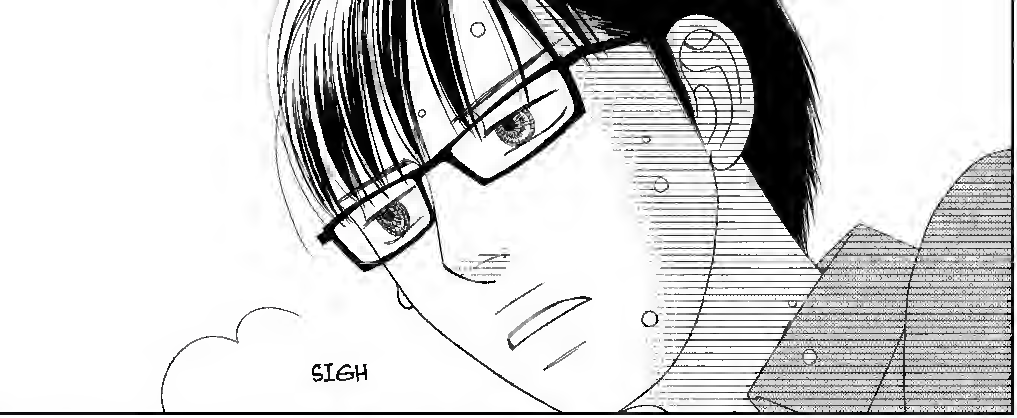
I'LL GO GET A WASH BASIN!
BLEGH

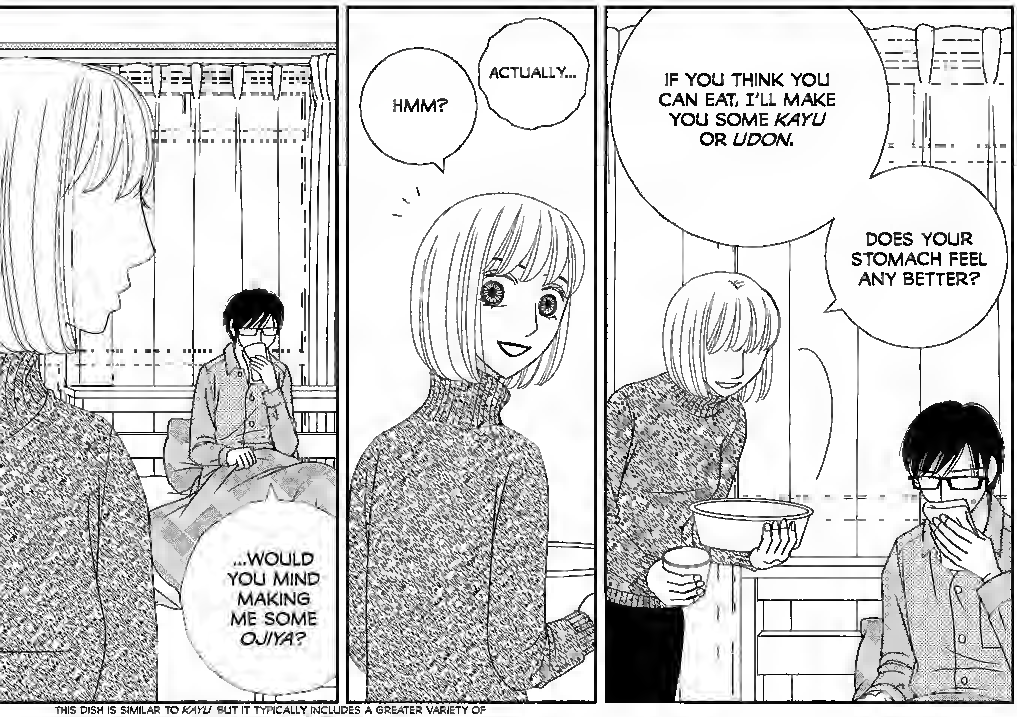

ARE YOU GOING TO THROW UP?
MHMM, MHMM

I'M SORRY.
SIGH

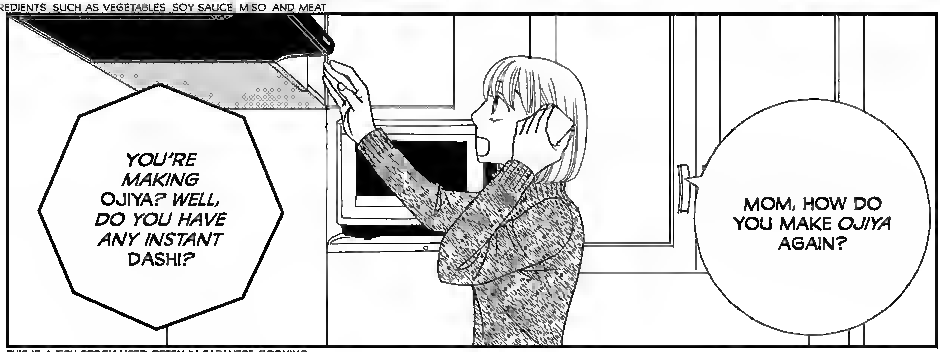

I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

IT'S OKAY. LET ME WIPE YOUR FACE.
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU RINSE OUT YOUR MOUTH.

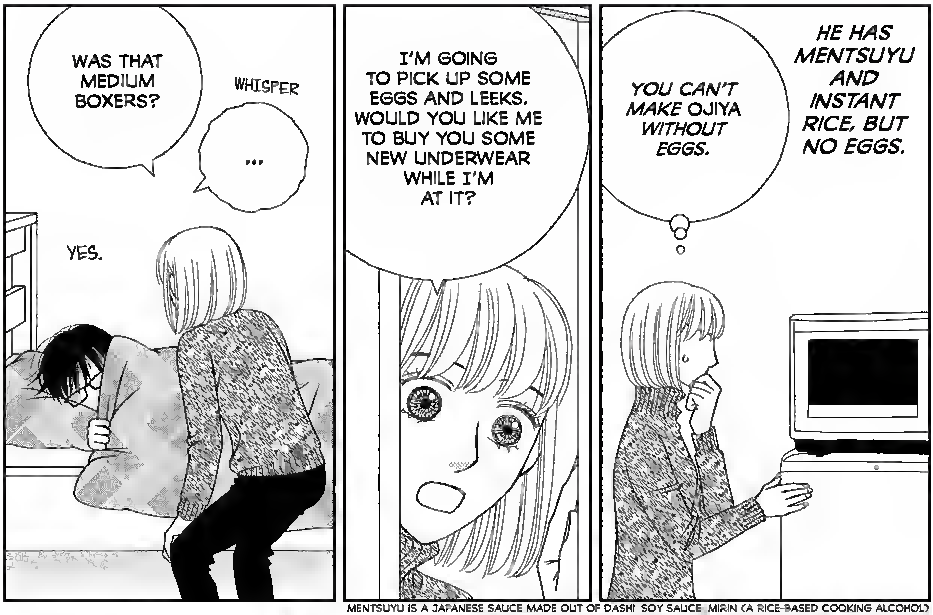



...WOULD YOU MIND MAKING ME SOME *OJIYA*?
HMM?
ACTUALLY...
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN EAT, I'LL MAKE YOU SOME *KAYU* OR *UDON*.
DOES YOUR STOMACH FEEL ANY BETTER?

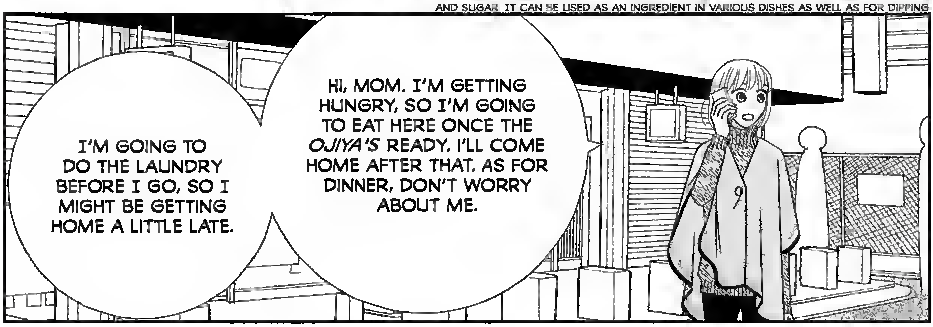
THIS DISH IS SIMILAR TO *KAYU* BUT IT TYPICALLY INCLUDES A GREATER VARIETY OF INGREDIENTS, SUCH AS VEGETABLES, SOY SAUCE, MISO, AND MEAT.



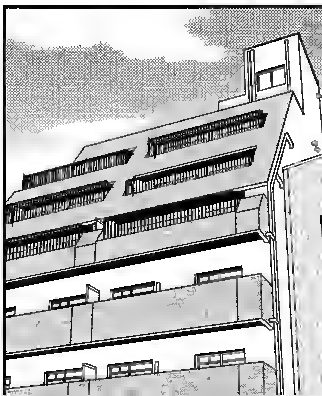
THIS IS A FISH STOCK USED OFTEN IN JAPANESE COOKING


WAS THAT MEDIUM BOXERS?
WHISPER
...
YES.
I'M GOING TO PICK UP SOME EGGS AND LEEKS. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BUY YOU SOME NEW UNDERWEAR WHILE I'M AT IT?
YOU CAN'T MAKE OJIYA WITHOUT EGGS.
HE HAS MENTSUYU AND INSTANT RICE, BUT NO EGGS.

MENTSUYU IS A JAPANESE SAUCE MADE OUT OF DASHI, SOY SAUCE, MIRIN (A RICE-BASED COOKING ALCOHOL) AND SUGAR. IT CAN BE USED AS AN INGREDIENT IN VARIOUS DISHES AS WELL AS FOR DIPPING.


I'M GOING TO DO THE LAUNDRY BEFORE I GO, SO I MIGHT BE GETTING HOME A LITTLE LATE.
HI, MOM. I'M GETTING HUNGRY, SO I'M GOING TO EAT HERE ONCE THE OJIYA'S READY. I'LL COME HOME AFTER THAT. AS FOR DINNER, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

* ABOUT $4.80.



HAVE YOU CHANGED? I'LL WASH THE CLOTHES YOU WERE WEARING.
THEY'RE A LITTLE GAUDY.
WHAT'S THIS PRINT ON THEM?
NO WAY! I THINK THEY LOOK GOOD.
I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THAT LAUNDRY ONCE THIS IS DONE.
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BLOW
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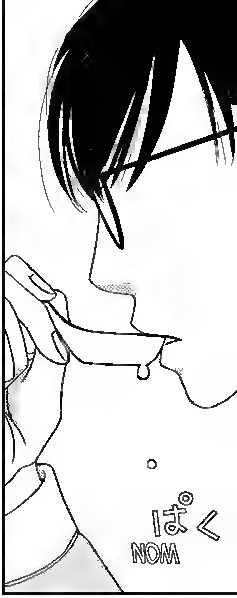
ADD A LITTLE SOY SAUCE IF IT'S TOO BLAND.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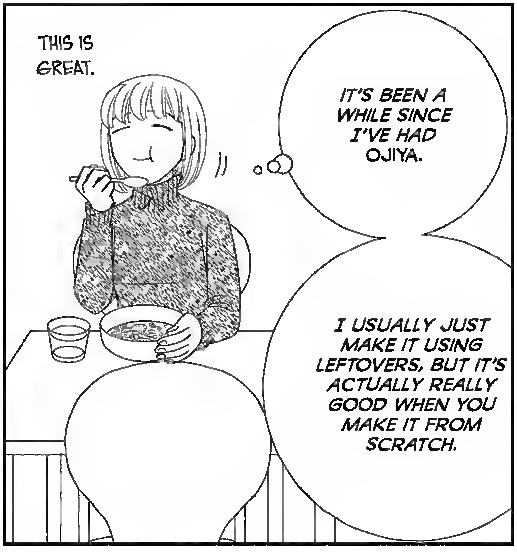
THIS IS GOOD.

EXCUSE ME.
I'M JUST LEAVING YOU SOME WATER RIGHT HERE.


THIS IS GREAT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD OJIYA.
I USUALLY JUST MAKE IT USING LEFTOVERS, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD WHEN YOU MAKE IT FROM SCRATCH.

I ALSO LEFT THE RECEIPTS AND A RECORD OF MY TRANS-PORTATION COSTS ON YOUR DESK.
I ATE HALF OF THE *OJIYA*, THOUGH, SO I DON'T NEED COMPENSATION FOR THAT.
YOU CAN PAY ME NEXT TIME I'M HERE.
THE LAUNDRY'S DONE, SO I'M GOING TO HEAD HOME.
I BOUGHT YOU SOME FROZEN UDON NOODLES AND INSTANT UDON SOUP, SO YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF SOME FOOD WHEN YOU NEED TO.
I LEFT SOME EGGS AND DRIED PLUMS IN THE FRIDGE, AS WELL AS SOME CHOPPED LEEKS IN THE FREEZER. YOU SHOULD ADD THOSE TO IT.
TEXT ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
I'LL LEAVE THE KEY IN YOUR MAILBOX.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU'RE WELCOME. TAKE CARE.
CLICK
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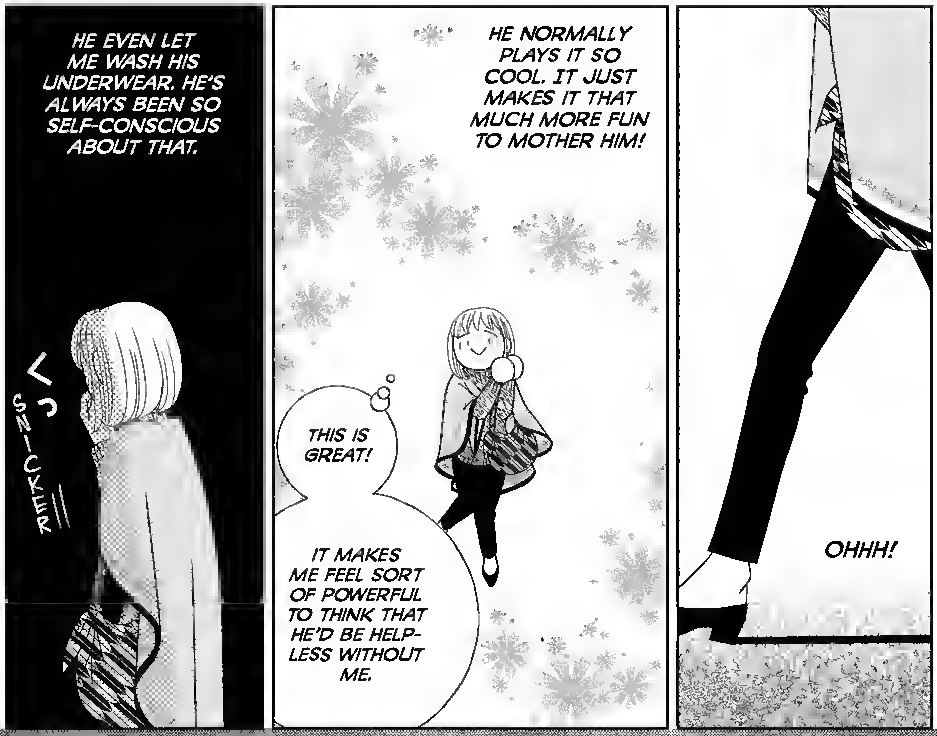
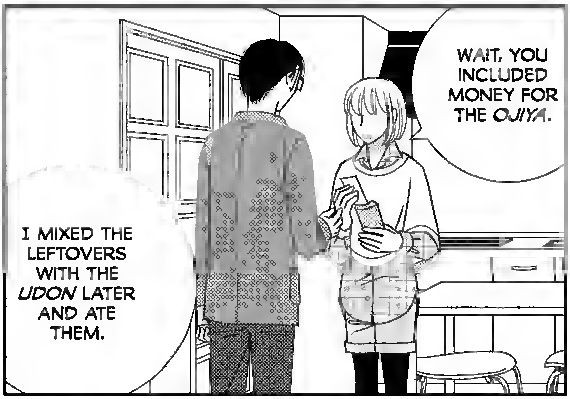

HE EVEN LET ME WASH HIS UNDERWEAR. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT THAT.
SNICKER
HE NORMALLY PLAYS IT SO COOL. IT JUST MAKES IT THAT MUCH MORE FUN TO MOTHER HIM!
THIS IS GREAT!
IT MAKES ME FEEL SORT OF POWERFUL TO THINK THAT HE'D BE HELPLESS WITHOUT ME.
OHHH!

AS CLOSE AS WE'VE GOTTEN, THOUGH, I GUESS I WON'T BE WORKING FOR HIM FOR MUCH LONGER.

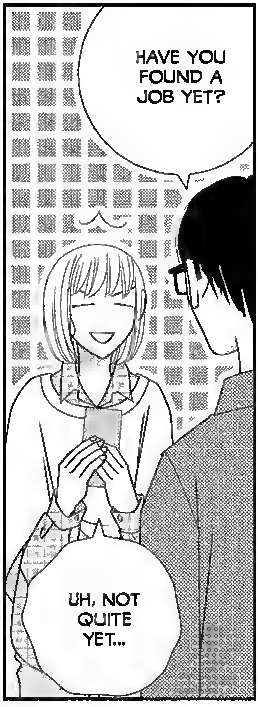
GOOD MORNING!
AW! I WOULD HAVE COME TO VISIT YOU IF YOU'D HAVE LET ME KNOW.
I ENDED UP STAYING IN BED FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT AFTER YOU SAW ME.
I'M GLAD YOUR FEVER'S FINALLY BROKEN.

IT WAS VERY HELPFUL.
GOOD THING I BOUGHT THAT *UDON* FOR YOU THEN.

HERE'S THE MONEY FOR YOUR OVER-TIME.

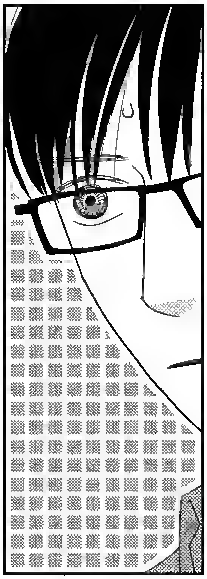

WAIT, YOU INCLUDED MONEY FOR THE *OJIYA*.
I MIXED THE LEFTOVERS WITH THE *UDON* LATER AND ATE THEM.

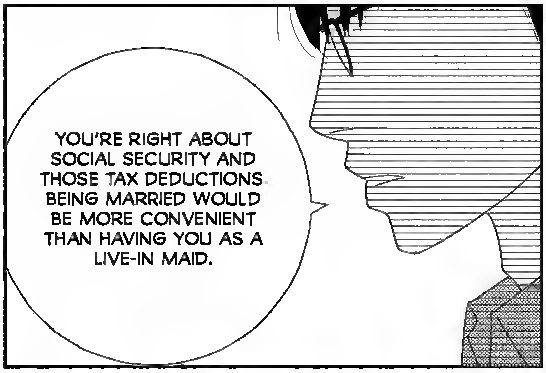
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T LIKE HAVING PEOPLE IN MY APARTMENT OR BEING TAKEN CARE OF, BUT I WAS FINE WITH YOUR HELP, MORIYAMA-SAN.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE SO PROFESSIONAL ABOUT IT. WE BOTH KNEW YOU WERE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.

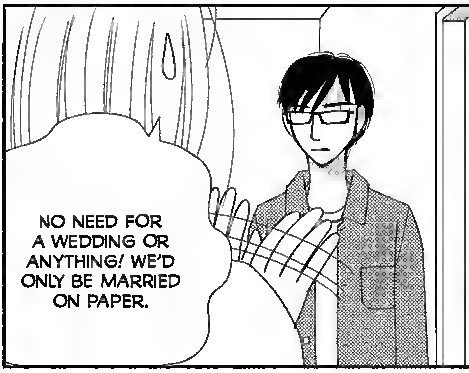

HAVE YOU FOUND A JOB YET?
UH, NOT QUITE YET...

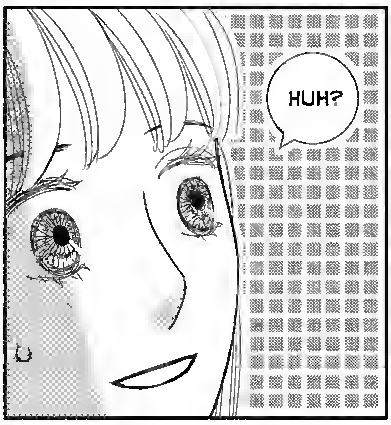
WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'M GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE
TOUCHED
じーん
I HOPE I CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE LIKE YOU.
BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE SAD THAT WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
I'M NOT SURE HOW YOUR PARENTS WOULD FEEL ABOUT YOU SHACKING UP WITH SOME GUY LIKE ME.
HMMM...
MY LIVE-IN MAID?
Y'KNOW, MAYBE I COULD BE YOUR LIVE-IN MAID OR SOMETHING.
...WE COULD JUST GET MARRIED. BEING YOUR WIFE COULD BE MY JOB.
WELL...

I MEAN, IN A PURELY PROFESSIONAL WAY! BEING MARRIED WOULD BE A LOT MORE CONVENIENT.
...WHAT?
WE'D GET A TAX BREAK AND SOCIAL SECURITY, AFTER ALL.




YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND THOSE TAX DEDUCTIONS. BEING MARRIED WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT THAN HAVING YOU AS A LIVE-IN MAID.


NO NEED FOR A WEDDING OR ANYTHING! WE'D ONLY BE MARRIED ON PAPER.


HUH?

I KNOW! RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT I MEAN!
BUT ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?

...I'M SORRY.

...BUT IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORRY ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING.

NO, YOU'RE FINE.

WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE WHO YOU REALLY LIKE AND WANT TO MARRY, YOU'LL HAVE A BLACK MARK ON YOUR RECORD. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

THAT SEEMS PRETTY PREJUDICED AGAINST DIVORCED PEOPLE, IF YOU ASK ME...

あはははは
HAHAHAHAHA

OOPS! I GUESS I JUST SPAT OUT MY DEEPEST FEAR.

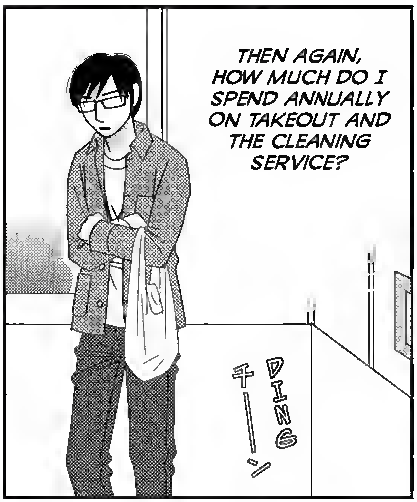
HAHAHA I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE SINCE NO ONE NEEDS ME.

WELL, SINCE I CAN'T FIND A JOB, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO LIVE IN THE COUNTRY WITH MY PARENTS!

HAHAHAHAHA! THIS SUCKS!

I WANT TO CRY!

MARRIAGE, HUH?


THEN AGAIN, HOW MUCH DO I SPEND ANNUALLY ON TAKEOUT AND THE CLEANING SERVICE?
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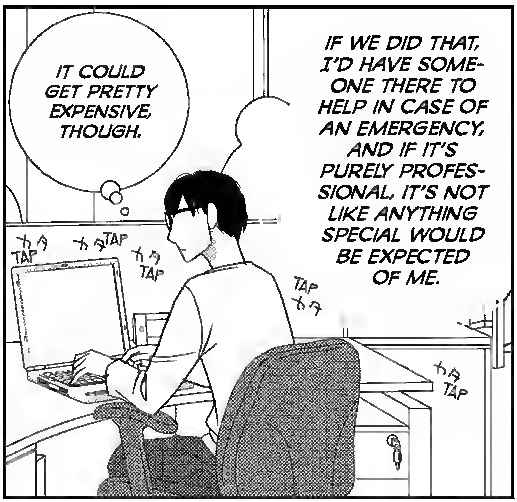
IT COULD GET PRETTY EXPENSIVE, THOUGH.
IF WE DID THAT, I'D HAVE SOMEONE THERE TO HELP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, AND IF IT'S PURELY PROFESSIONAL, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING SPECIAL WOULD BE EXPECTED OF ME.
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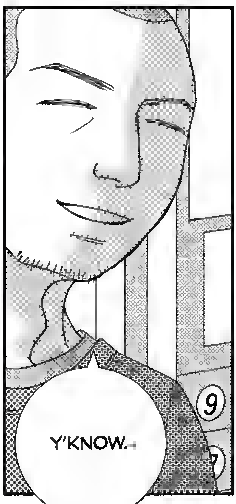
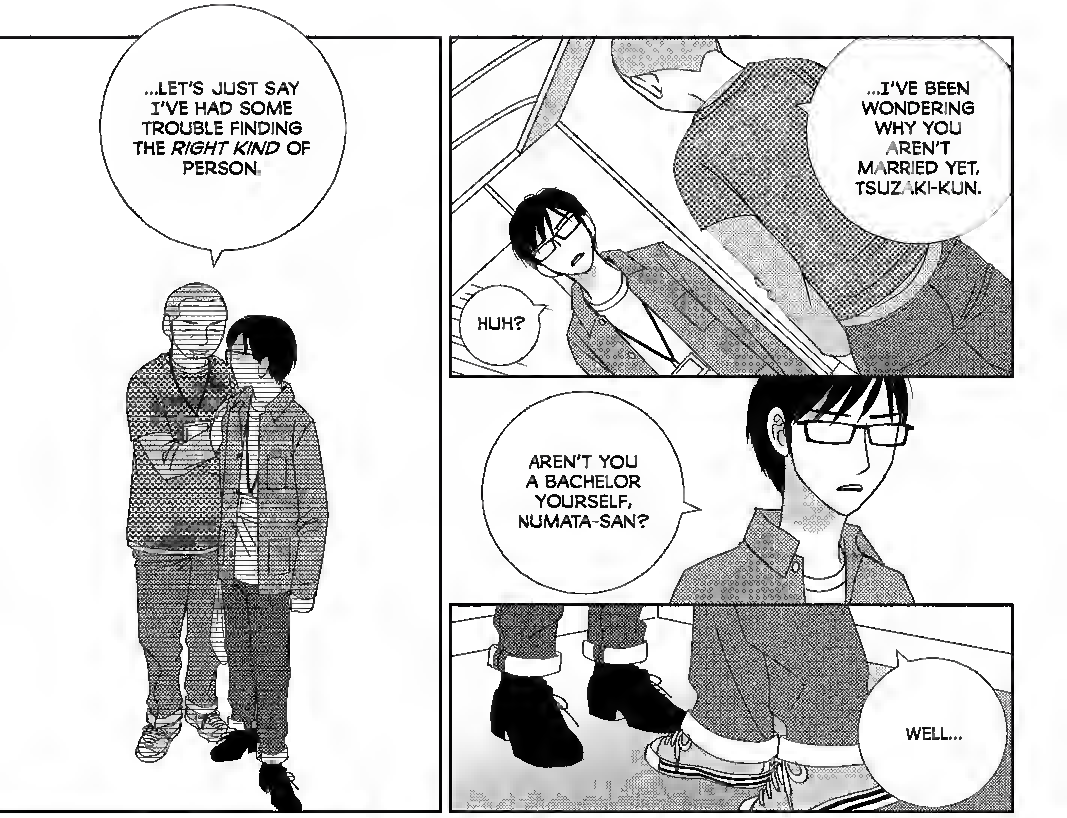

Y'KNOW.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK LOST IN THOUGHT.
OH! HI, NUMATA-SAN

HEY, TSUZAKI-KUN.
はっ GASP


...LET'S JUST SAY I'VE HAD SOME TROUBLE FINDING THE *RIGHT KIND* OF PERSON.
...I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU AREN'T MARRIED YET, TSUZAKI-KUN.
HUH?
AREN'T YOU A BACHELOR YOURSELF, NUMATA-SAN?
WELL...

WHAT THE HELL? WHAT THE HELL? WHAT THE HELL?!

HE'S HITTING ON ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A BACHELOR!

In the next episode...

LET S DECIDE ON YOUR RESPON- SIBILITIES. YOUR WAGES. AND YOUR TIME OFF IN ADVANCE.
A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE WON T AFFECT YOUR FAMILY REGISTRY. WE JUST SUBMIT A FORM NOTIFYING THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR CHANGE OF RESIDENCE. I WON'T GET ANY TAX DEDUCTIONS. BUT WE CAN STILL COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND YOU'LL GET HEALTH INSURANCE.

THIS IS THE MAIN SYSTEM BY WH CH RECORDS ARE KEPT ON JAPANESE CITIZENS. IN TERMS OF ITS IMPORTANCE AND USE IN EVERYDAY LIFE. ONE CAN THINK OF IT AS BEING AKIN TO A COMBINATION OF A BIRTH CERT F CATE AND A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

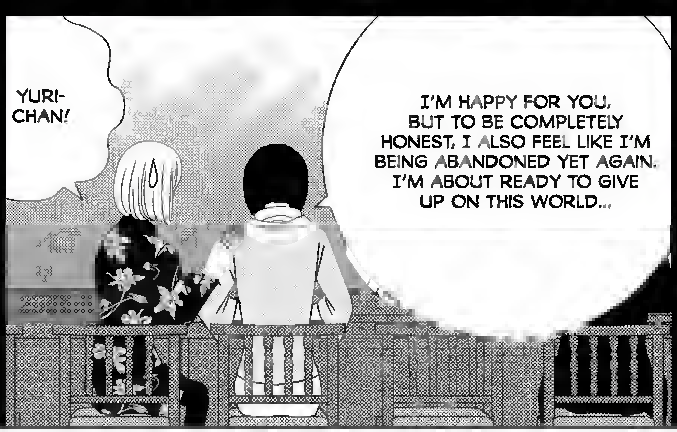
Mikuri gets a job as Tsuzaki's wife.

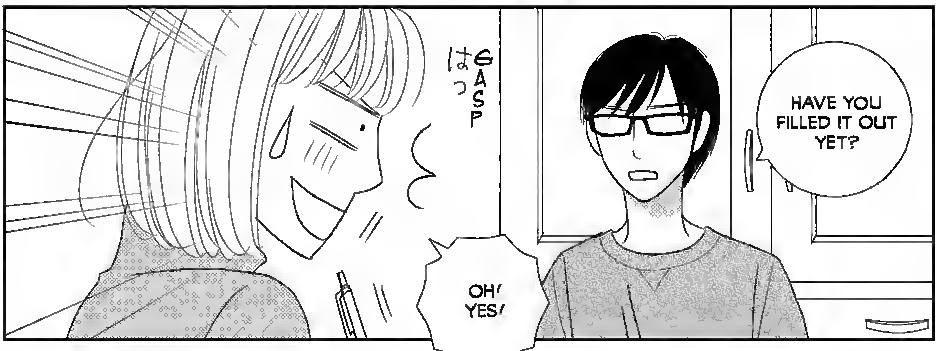
WE CAN SPLIT THE PRICE OF RENT, FOOD, AND UTILITIES EVENLY.
I'LL PAY YOU OVERTIME FOR ANY FAMILY EVENTS WE HAVE TO ATTEND AS A COUPLE.

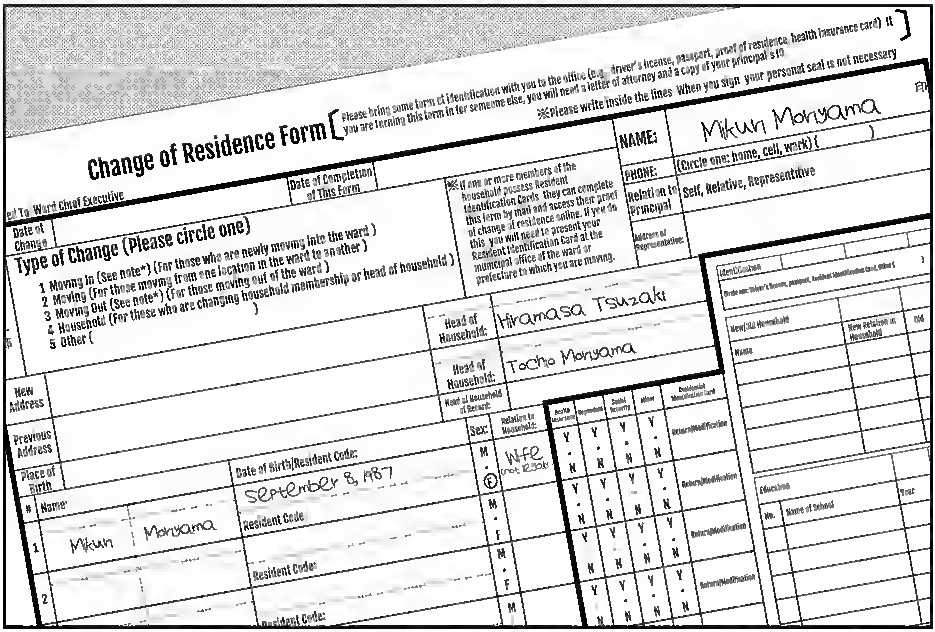
Tsuzaki and Mikuri begin their life as a "couple."

IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR EITHER OF US TO DATE OTHER PEOPLE, BUT LET'S TRY TO KEEP THAT ON THE DOWN LOW FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES AND EACH OTHER.
WHAT ABOUT THAT OTHER STUFF MARRIED PEOPLE DO?
WE'LL SLEEP IN SEPARATE ROOMS, OF COURSE.
THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.

Tune in to find out what happens next to Mikuri in "A Fox's Wedding"!


YURI-CHAN!
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU. BUT TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, I ALSO FEEL LIKE I'M BEING ABANDONED YET AGAIN. I'M ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP ON THIS WORLD...




Change of Residence Form
Please bring some form of identification with you to the office (e.g. driver's license, passport, proof of residence, health insurance card) If you are turning this form in for someone else, you will need a letter of attorney and a copy of your principal's ID
※Please write inside the lines When you sign your personal seal is not necessary
Date of Completion of This Form
Type of Change (Please circle one)
1 Moving In (See note**) (For those who are newly moving into the ward)
2 Moving (For those moving from one location in the ward to another)
3 Moving Out (See note*) (For those moving out of the ward)
4 Household (For those who are changing household membership or head of household)
5 Other (
※If one or more members of the household possess Resident Identification Cards, they can complete this form by mail and access their proof of change of residence online. If you do this, you will need to present your Resident Identification Card at the municipal office of the ward or prefecture to which you are moving.
NAME: Mikun Moryama
PHONE: (Circle one: home, cell, work) ( )
Relation to Principal: Self, Relative, Representative
Address of Representative:
Head of Household: Hiramasa Tsuzaki
Head of Household: Tacha Moryama
New Address
Previous Address
Place of Birth
Name
Date of Birth/Resident Code:
Resident Code
Sex:
Relation to Household:
1 Mikun Moryama September 8, 1987 M WIFE
2
Driver's License
Insurance
Social Security
Allow
Residential Identification Card
Name(All Household)
New Relation to Household
Name of Friend

THAT'S HOW I GOT MY NEW JOB...

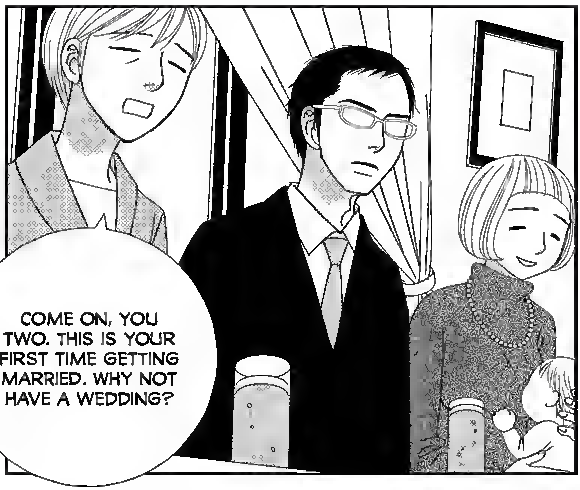
...AS A BUSINESSMAN'S WIFE.

THE FULL-TIME WIFE ESCAPIST

2

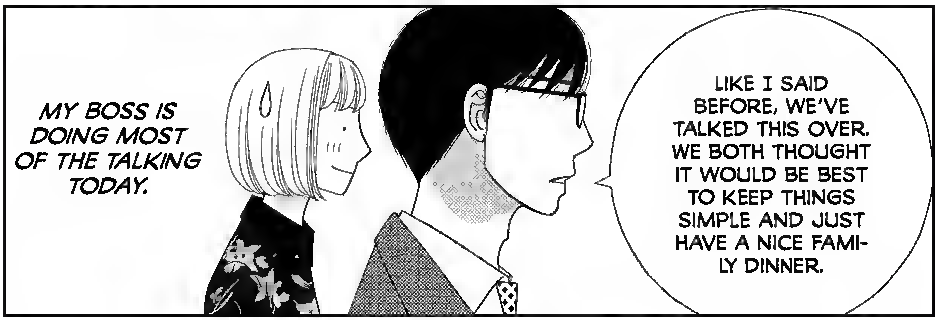
A Fox's Wedding

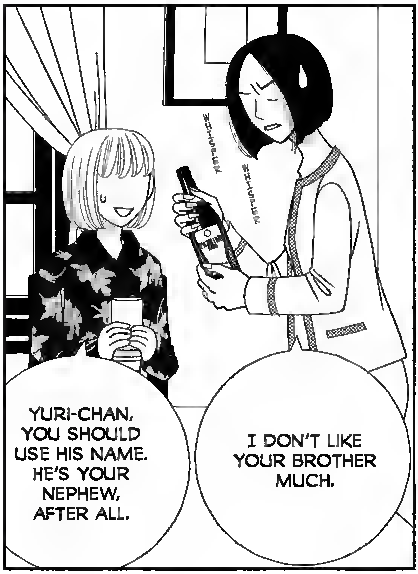
WE GOT MARRIED (SORT OF).

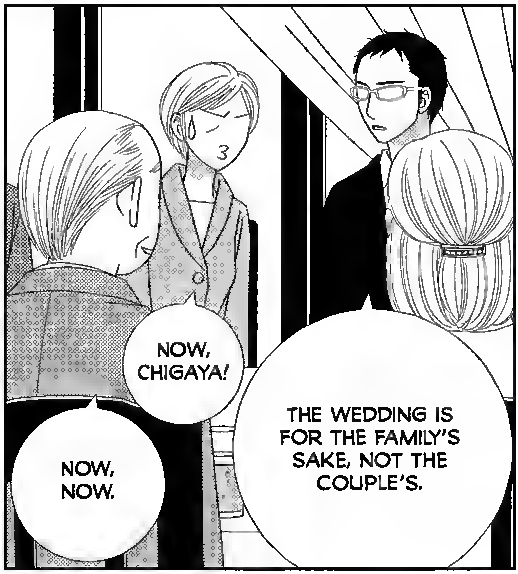


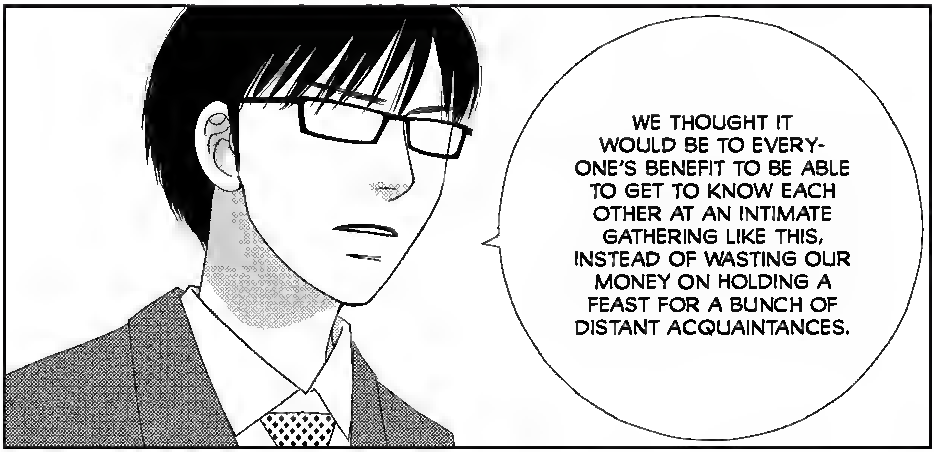
OF COURSE, WE'RE ACTUALLY BOSS AND EMPLOYEE, NOT HUSBAND AND WIFE.

WE'RE NOT EVEN CHANGING OUR FAMILY REGISTRIES. IT'S JUST A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE.

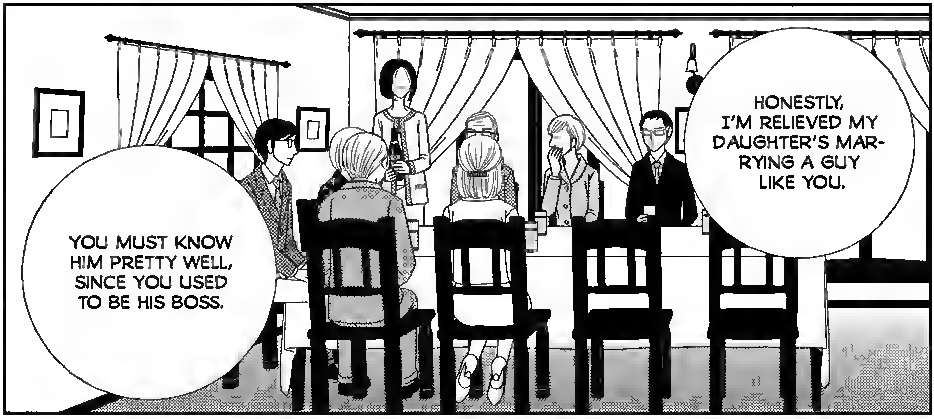

MY BOSS IS DOING MOST OF THE TALKING TODAY.
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, WE'VE TALKED THIS OVER. WE BOTH THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO KEEP THINGS SIMPLE AND JUST HAVE A NICE FAMILY DINNER.






WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TO EVERY-ONE'S BENEFIT TO BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AT AN INTIMATE GATHERING LIKE THIS, INSTEAD OF WASTING OUR MONEY ON HOLDING A FEAST FOR A BUNCH OF DISTANT ACQUAINTANCES.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE LIKED TO PLAY IT SAFE, TSUZAKI-KUN.
HEY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WELL, I CAN'T FAULT YOUR LOGIC. I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE.


YOU MUST KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL, SINCE YOU USED TO BE HIS BOSS.
HONESTLY, I'M RELIEVED MY DAUGHTER'S MAR-RYING A GUY LIKE YOU.

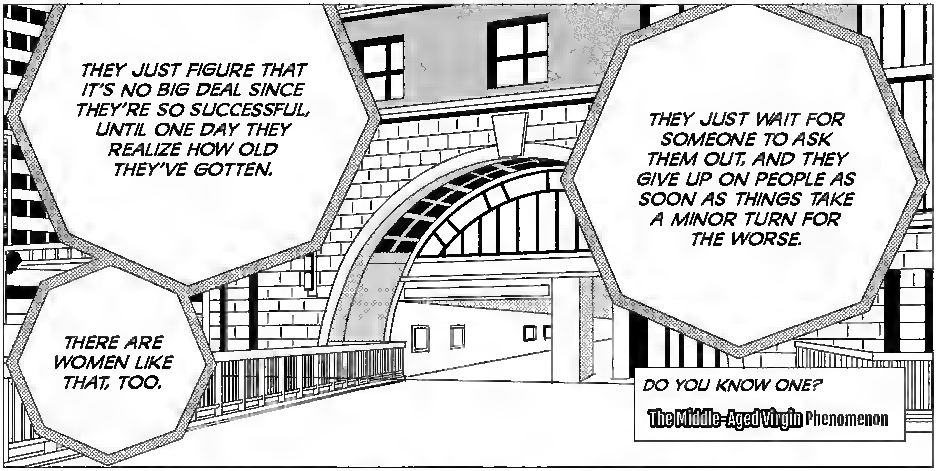
WAIT...
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S STILL A VIRGIN?
HE ALWAYS GOT GOOD GRADES, BUT HE NEVER WAS MUCH OF A ROMANTIC.
I'M SORRY, MIKURI-CHAN. HIRAMASA'S NEVER SPENT MUCH TIME WITH GIRLS, SO I DON'T THINK HE UNDERSTANDS US VERY WELL. DON'T HESITATE TO TELL HIM WHAT'S WHAT.
MOM!
DAD!
IT TOOK HIM THIRTY-SIX YEARS.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HE'S NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE. I'M SURPRISED HE'S GETTING MARRIED TO THE FIRST WOMAN HE'S EVER DATED LIKE THIS. I GUESS HE'S JUST A LATE BLOOMER.
HUH?

HUH? I DON'T KNOW. WHATEVER. PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE, RIGHT?
Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MIDDLE-AGED VIRGINS?
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon

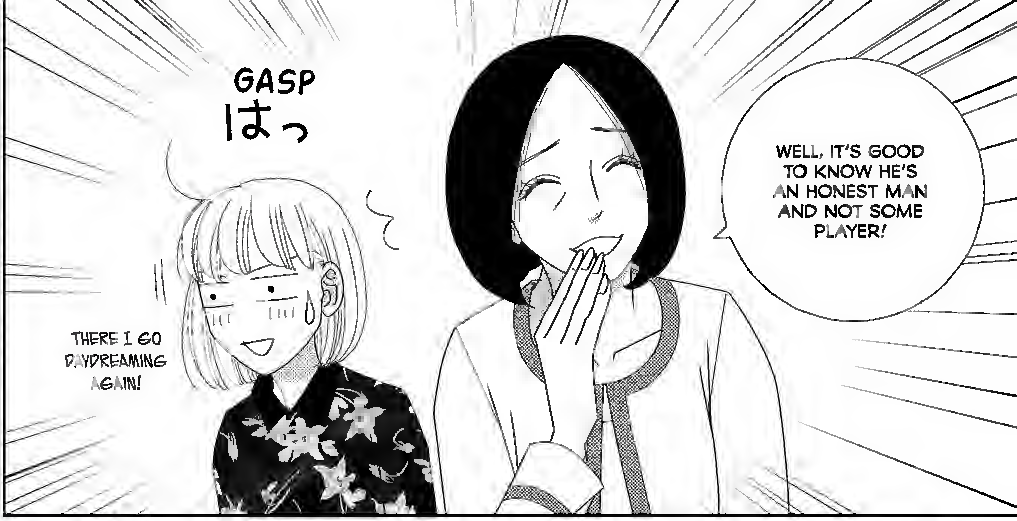
MAYBE THEY'RE JUST NOT POPULAR? THEN AGAIN, THAT MAY NOT BE IT.
I MEAN, A LOT OF THEM ARE WELL EDU-CATED AND HAVE GOOD JOBS. THEY EVEN LOOK GOOD.
Q: WHY DO YOU THINK SOME GUYS REMAIN VIRGINS UNTIL MIDDLE AGE?
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon

HMM, I WONDER. MAYBE THEY'RE JUST TOO PROUD.
Q: WHY WOULD A GUY LIKE THAT BE A VIRGIN?
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon

NO, I MEAN THEY DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. THEY'RE SCARED OF REJECTION.
OR MAYBE THEY'VE BEEN REJECTED AND HURT.
Q: ARE YOU SAYING IT'S THAT THEY'RE TOO PICKY?
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon


THEY JUST FIGURE THAT IT'S NO BIG DEAL SINCE THEY'RE SO SUCCESSFUL, UNTIL ONE DAY THEY REALIZE HOW OLD THEY'VE GOTTEN.
THERE ARE WOMEN LIKE THAT, TOO.
THEY JUST WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO ASK THEM OUT, AND THEY GIVE UP ON PEOPLE AS SOON AS THINGS TAKE A MINOR TURN FOR THE WORSE.
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon

WELL, I KNOW ONE OR TWO MYSELF. THEY MAKE GREAT FRIENDS.
I GUESS DATING THEM MIGHT BE A HASSLE, THOUGH.
Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT KIND OF GUY?
DO YOU KNOW ONE?
The Middle-Aged Virgin Phenomenon


GASP
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THERE I GO DAYDREAMING AGAIN!
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW HE'S AN HONEST MAN AND NOT SOME PLAYER!

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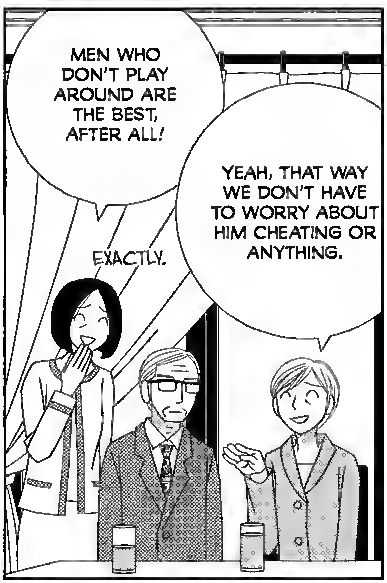
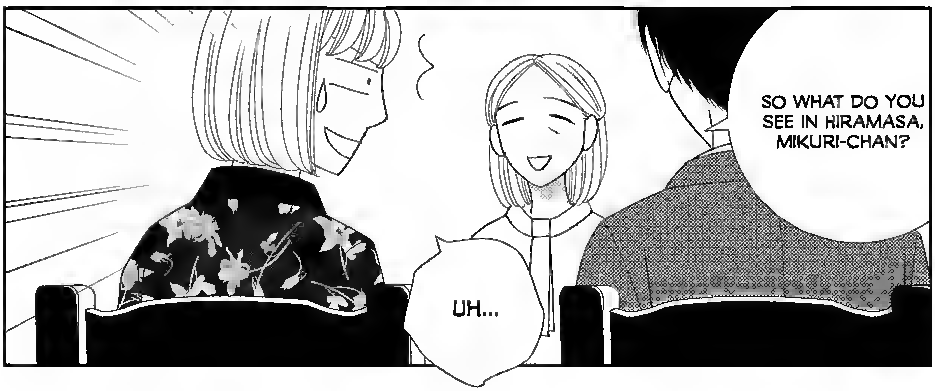
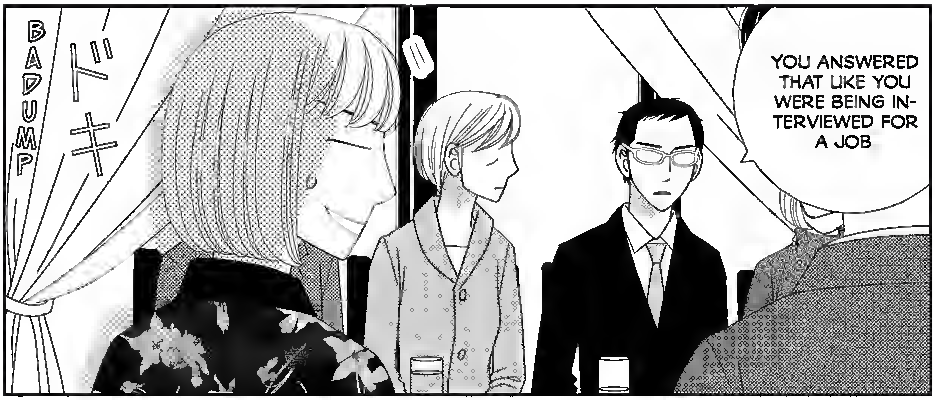
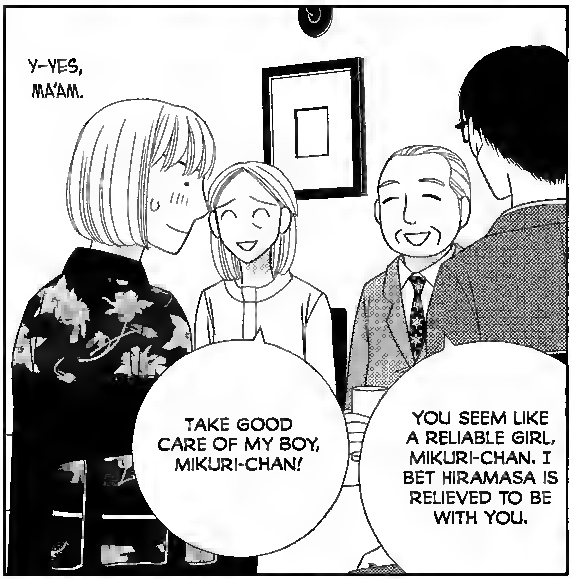
GRR
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T PLAY AROUND A LITTLE LESS YOURSELF, AUNT YURI. THEN MAYBE YOU'D BE MARRIED BY NOW.
YURI-CHAN...


MEN WHO DON'T PLAY AROUND ARE THE BEST, AFTER ALL!
EXACTLY.
YEAH, THAT WAY WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM CHEATING OR ANYTHING.

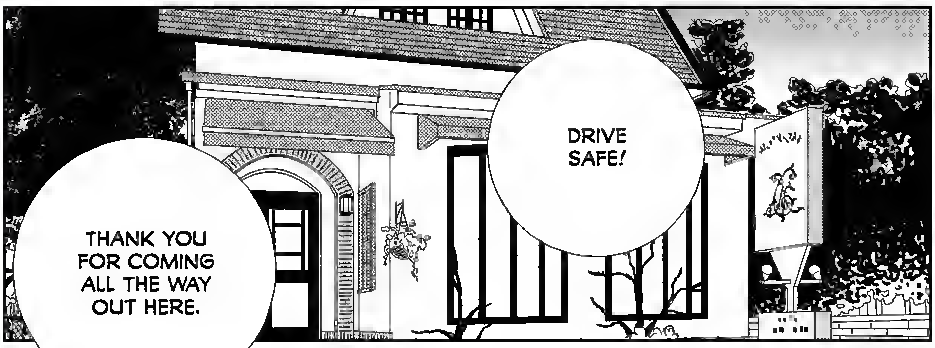

SO WHAT DO YOU SEE IN HIRAMASA, MIKURI-CHAN?
UH...

WELL...
IT'S MY TURN TO TALK!
AS AN EMPLOYEE, I'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM WHAT A GOOD BOSS HE IS.
HOW ABOUT A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE?
I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING YOUR OFFER
HE FINDS A WAY TO MAKE MY RIDICULOUS IDEAS WORK
...AND I CAN COUNT ON HIM WHEN I NEED HELP...
SO I'M PAYING IN ADVANCE
IF I DON'T LIKE YOUR WORK THIS TIME, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOUR COMPANY AGAIN...
HE'S CLEAR ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS AND DOESN'T JUST COMPLAIN ABOUT THINGS AFTER THE FACT.
MHMM.
...HE'S TRUSTWORTHY...
AND HE'S A NERD WHO DOESN'T INSPIRE THE SLIGHTEST SEXUAL DESIRE IN ME
...AND I CAN RELAX WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
WHAT?


BADUMP
ドキ
YOU ANSWERED THAT LIKE YOU WERE BEING INTERVIEWED FOR A JOB

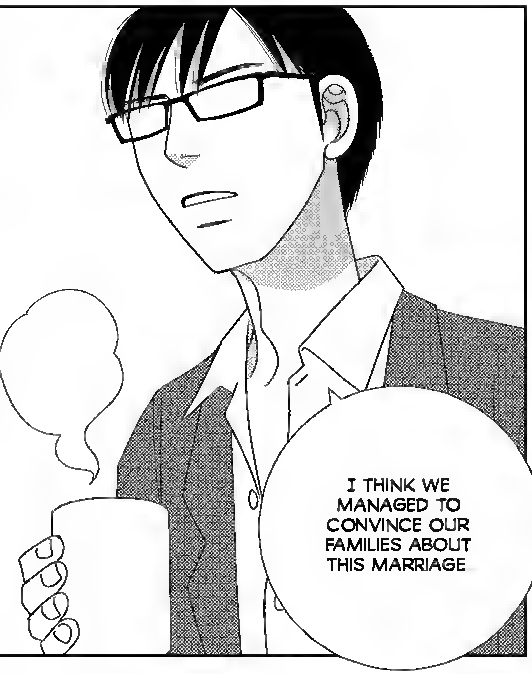

Y-YES, MA'AM.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BOY, MIKURI-CHAN!
YOU SEEM LIKE A RELIABLE GIRL, MIKURI-CHAN. I BET HIRAMASA IS RELIEVED TO BE WITH YOU.

WELL, I'VE HEARD HER CALL MARRIAGE AN ETERNAL JOB!
HA HA HA あはは♡

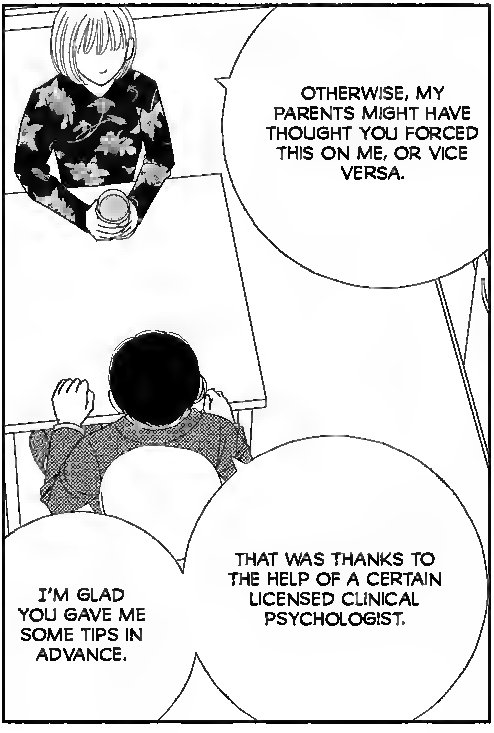

THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
DRIVE SAFE!

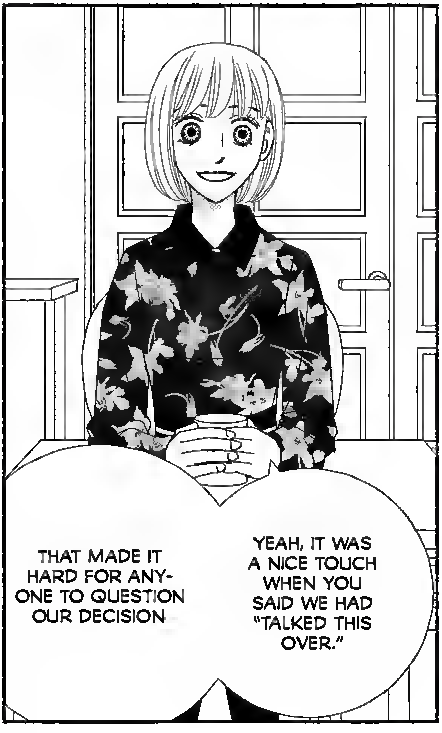
MARRIAGE REALLY STARTS ONCE YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
HEY, SIS.
MIKURI-CHAN.
YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE HIM, DO YOU, YURI-CHAN?
HEARING IT FROM YOUR BROTHER'S WIFE HAS IMPACT.
ACK!
GOD, BRO!
WHEN HE WAS STILL A LITTLE BRAT, HE TOLD ME I COULD NEVER FIND A HUSBAND. I'LL NEVER LET THAT GO.

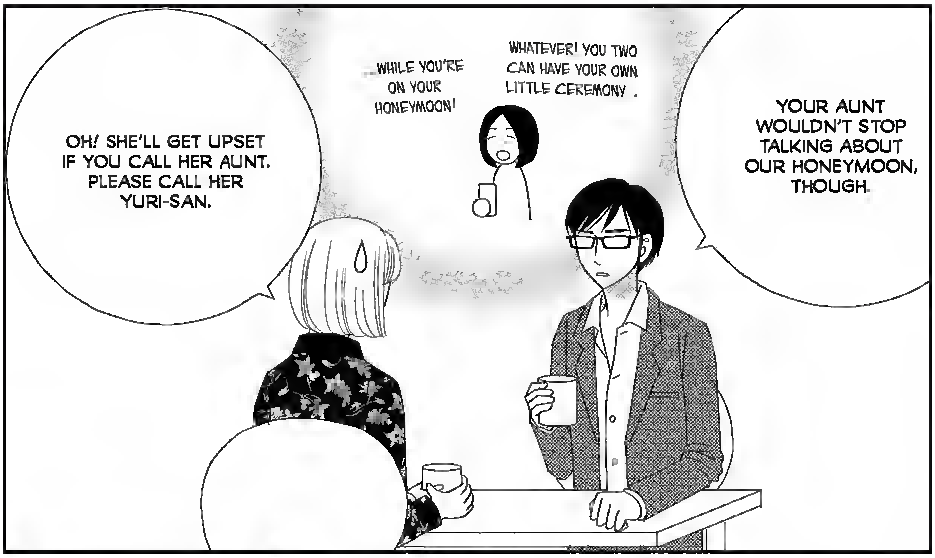
I'M EXHAUSTED...
YOU'RE NOT ON THE CLOCK RIGHT NOW. DO YOU REALLY NOT MIND?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD TODAY. WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
OKAY.
DID YOU WANT COFFEE?
NO, GREEN TEA, PLEASE.
OF COURSE NOT! I'D LIKE SOMETHING MYSELF.
I'LL HAVE SOME, TOO, THEN.

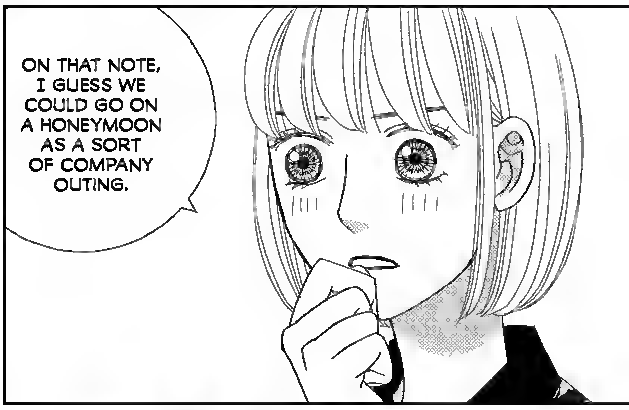

I THINK WE MANAGED TO CONVINCE OUR FAMILIES ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE

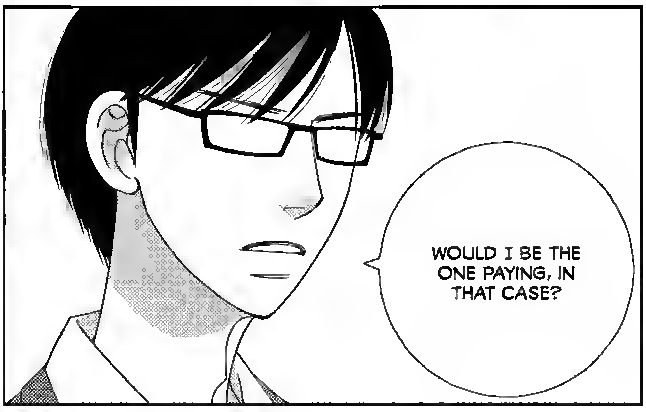
HUH?
LET'S HAVE A MEETING ALONG WITH OUR TEA.

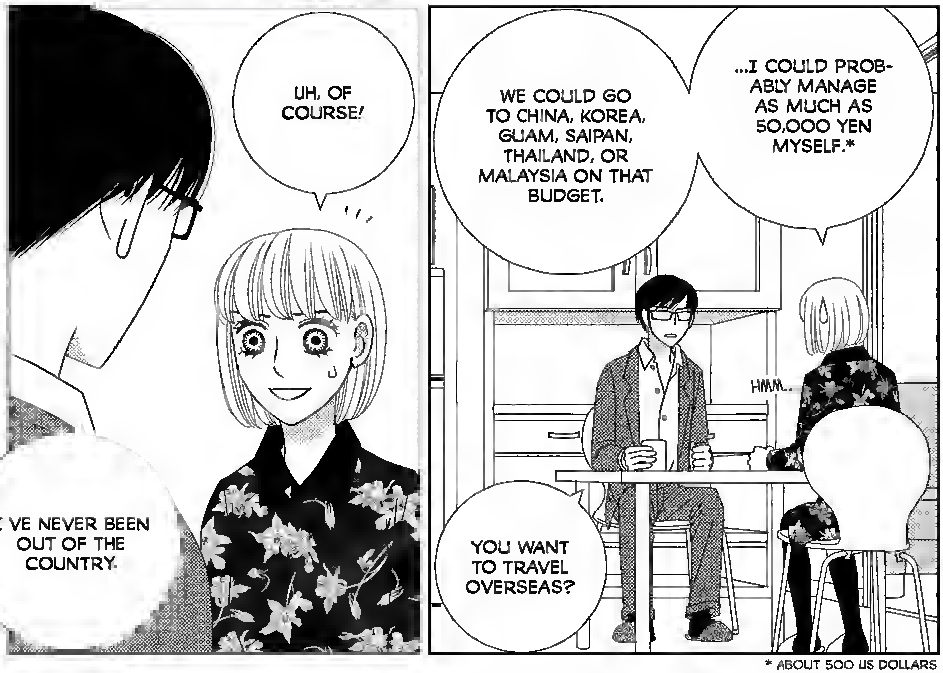

OTHERWISE, MY PARENTS MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT YOU FORCED THIS ON ME, OR VICE VERSA.
I'M GLAD YOU GAVE ME SOME TIPS IN ADVANCE.
THAT WAS THANKS TO THE HELP OF A CERTAIN LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST.


THAT MADE IT HARD FOR ANY-ONE TO QUESTION OUR DECISION
YEAH, IT WAS A NICE TOUCH WHEN YOU SAID WE HAD "TALKED THIS OVER."

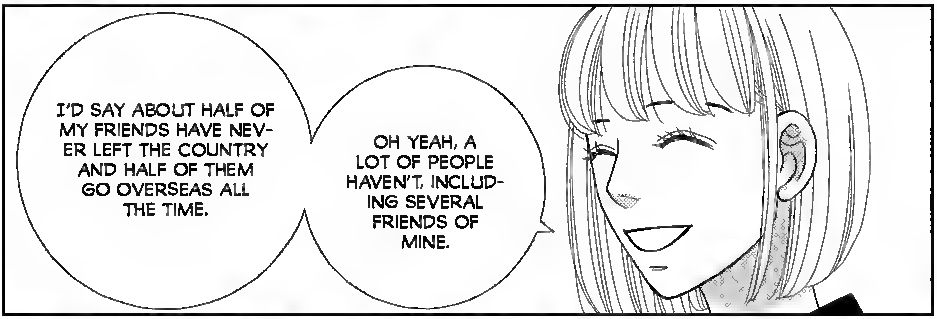

OH! SHE'LL GET UPSET IF YOU CALL HER AUNT. PLEASE CALL HER YURI-SAN.
...WHILE YOU'RE ON YOUR HONEYMOON!
WHATEVER! YOU TWO CAN HAVE YOUR OWN LITTLE CEREMONY.
YOUR AUNT WOULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT OUR HONEYMOON, THOUGH.


ON THAT NOTE, I GUESS WE COULD GO ON A HONEYMOON AS A SORT OF COMPANY OUTING.

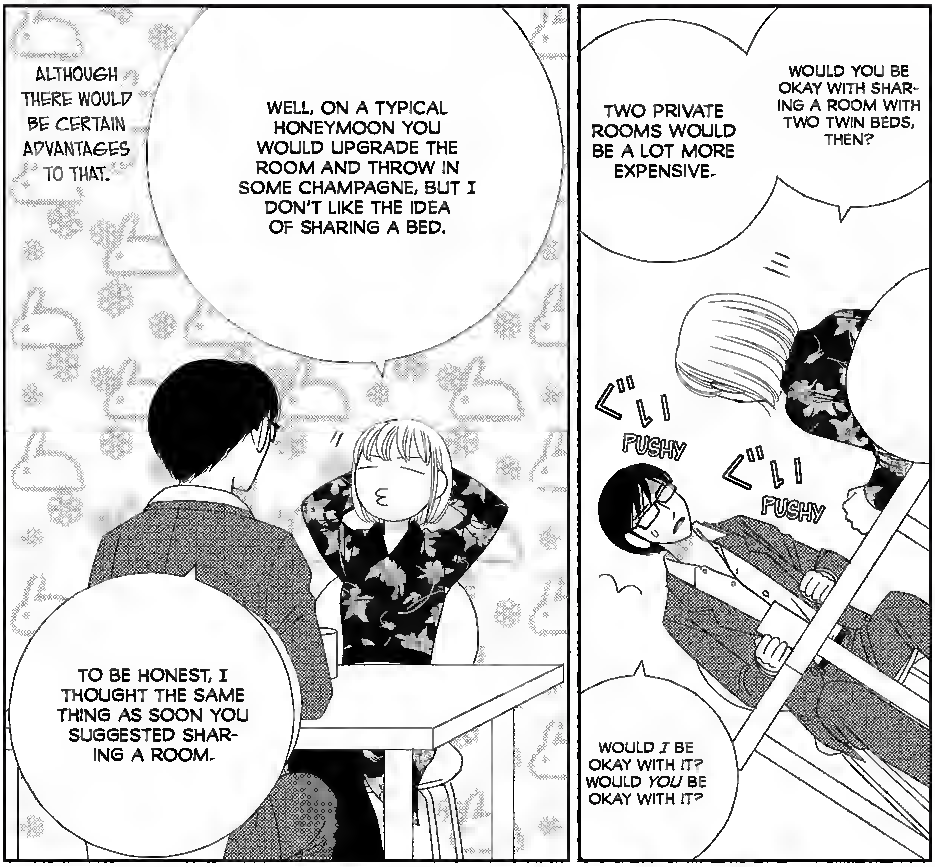

WOULD I BE THE ONE PAYING, IN THAT CASE?

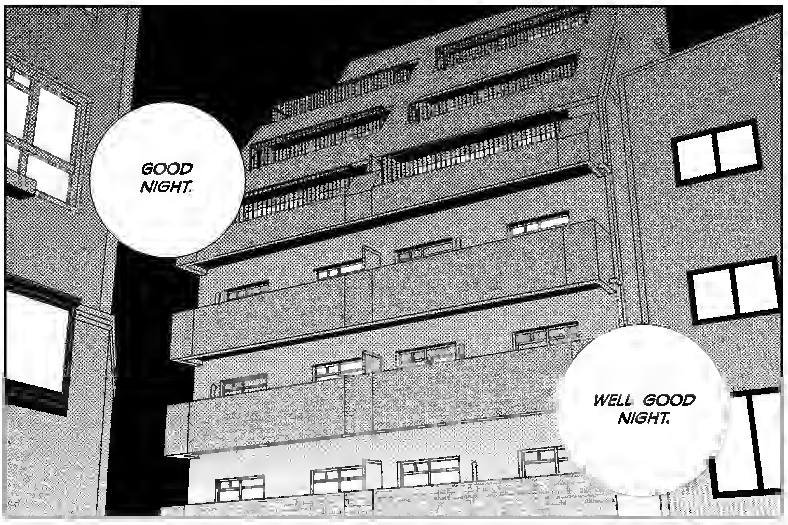

UH, OF COURSE!
I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
WE COULD GO TO CHINA, KOREA, GUAM, SAIPAN, THAILAND, OR MALAYSIA ON THAT BUDGET.
...I COULD PROBABLY MANAGE AS MUCH AS 50,000 YEN MYSELF.*
HMM...
YOU WANT TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS?

* ABOUT 500 US DOLLARS


I'D SAY ABOUT HALF OF MY FRIENDS HAVE NEVER LEFT THE COUNTRY AND HALF OF THEM GO OVERSEAS ALL THE TIME.
OH YEAH, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVEN'T, INCLUDING SEVERAL FRIENDS OF MINE.

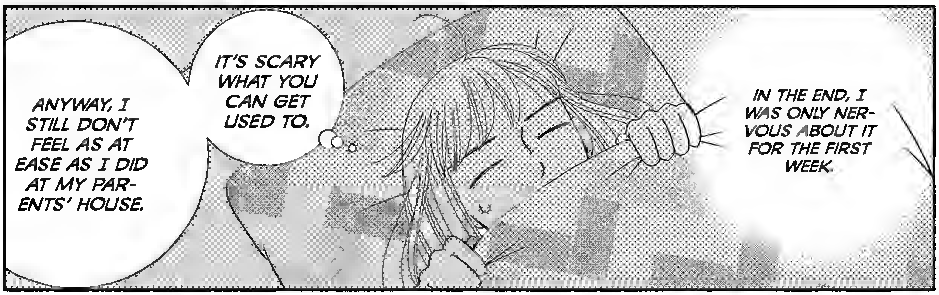
REALLY?!
IF YOU DO ALL THE PLANNING AND GET EVERYTHING TOGETHER SO WE CAN GO WHERE I WANT TO GO AND SEE WHAT I WANT TO SEE, I'LL PAY FOR IT ALL.

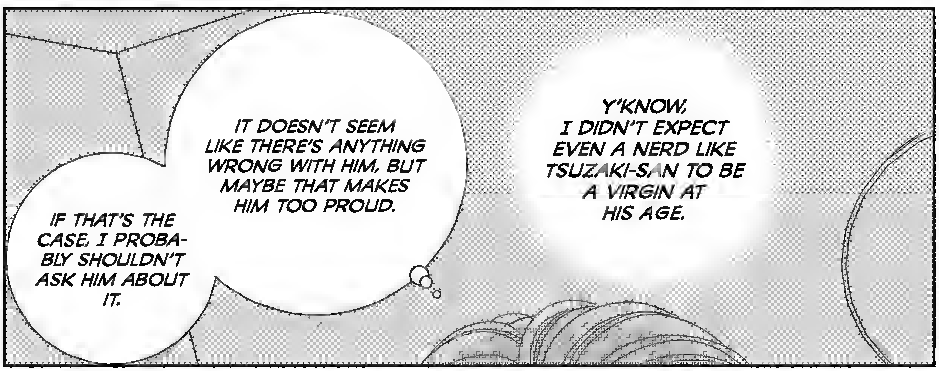

ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO THAT.
WELL, ON A TYPICAL HONEYMOON YOU WOULD UPGRADE THE ROOM AND THROW IN SOME CHAMPAGNE, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SHARING A BED.
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT THE SAME THING AS SOON YOU SUGGESTED SHARING A ROOM.
TWO PRIVATE ROOMS WOULD BE A LOT MORE EXPENSIVE.
WOULD YOU BE OKAY WITH SHARING A ROOM WITH TWO TWIN BEDS, THEN?
PUSHY
PUSHY
WOULD I BE OKAY WITH IT? WOULD YOU BE OKAY WITH IT?


GOOD NIGHT.
WELL. GOOD NIGHT.

I MEAN...

...I HONESTLY DON'T THINK SHARING AN APARTMENT IS THAT DIFFERENT FROM SHARING A ROOM.


ANYWAY, I STILL DON'T FEEL AS AT EASE AS I DID AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE.
IT'S SCARY WHAT YOU CAN GET USED TO.
IN THE END, I WAS ONLY NERVOUS ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST WEEK.


IF THAT'S THE CASE, I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ASK HIM ABOUT IT.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH HIM, BUT MAYBE THAT MAKES HIM TOO PROUD.
Y'KNOW, I DIDN'T EXPECT EVEN A NERD LIKE TSUZAKI-SAN TO BE A VIRGIN AT HIS AGE.

THOSE TWO MIGHT HAVE MADE A GOOD COUPLE IF THEY WERE A LITTLE CLOSER IN AGE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEN I'D BE OUT OF A JOB

I GUESS HE'S THE SAME AS YURI-CHAN, IN A WAY.

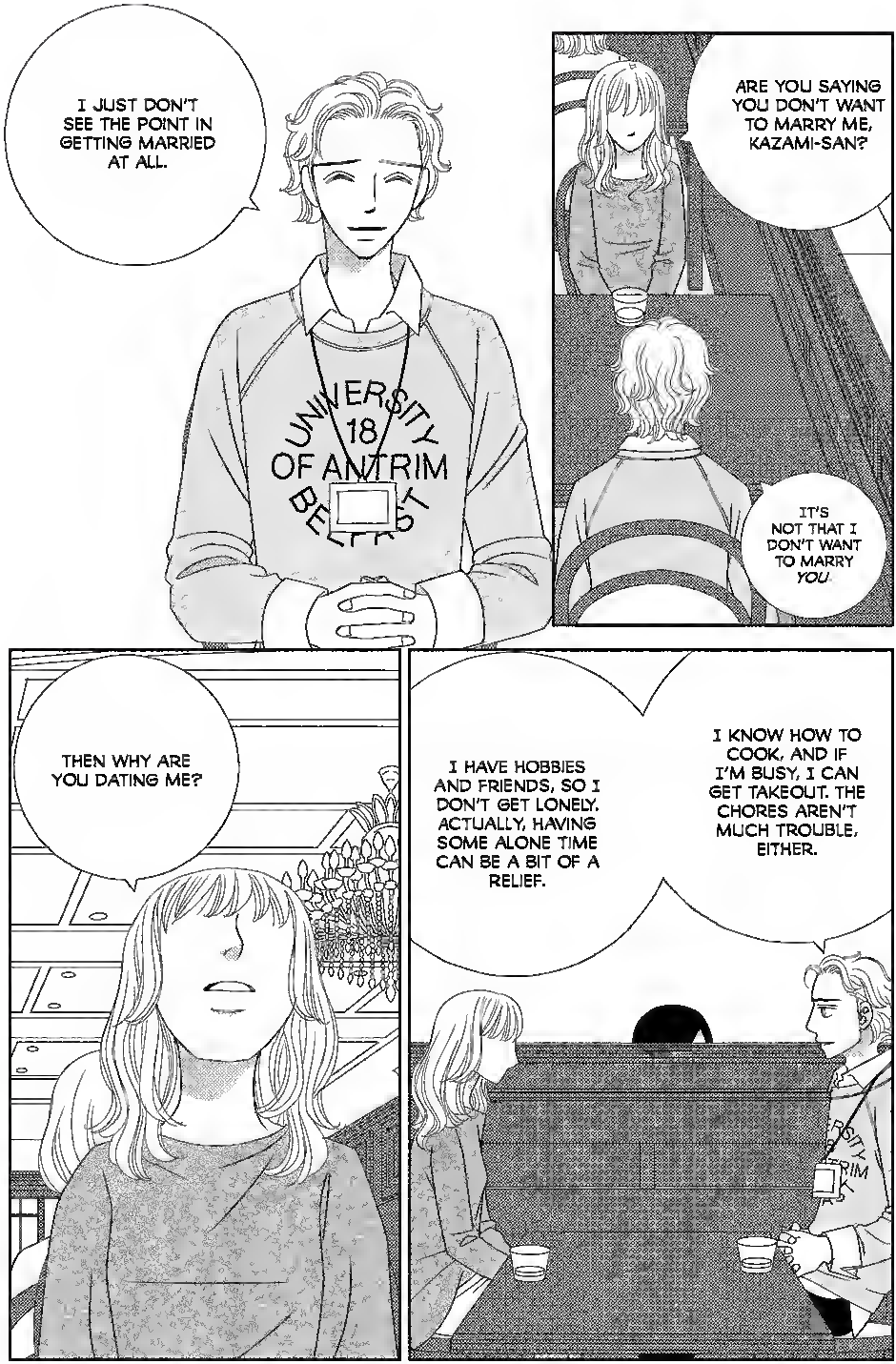
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR, BUT SHE STILL ENDED UP A MIDDLE-AGED VIRGIN.

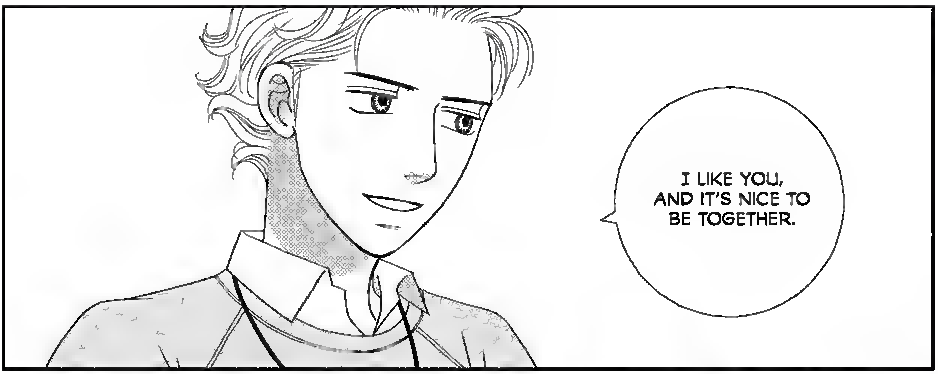
YURI-CHAN IN HER LATE TWENTIES (DURING THE BUBBLE ECONOMY)

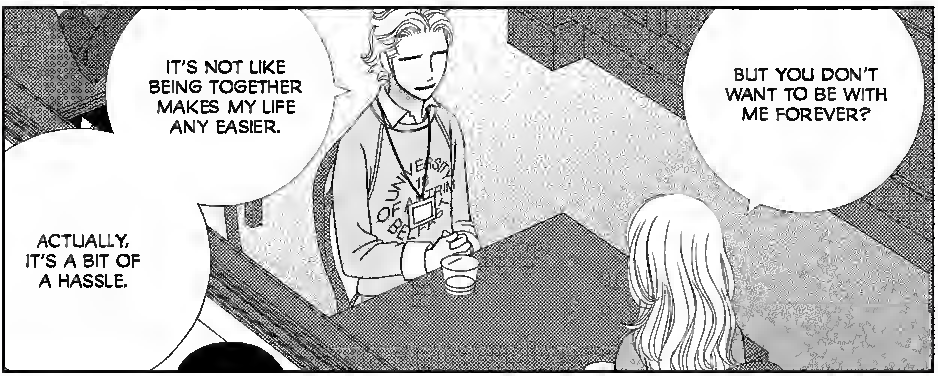
UNEMPLOYMENT, PEOPLE GETTING MARRIED LATER, HAVING FEWER CHILDREN

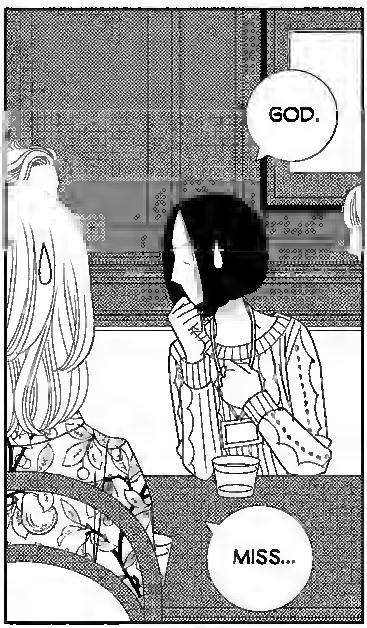
WE MUST STRIVE AS A NATION TO... MUMBLE, MUMBLE.

WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO GO OVER THIS AT LUNCH, EITHER, BUT...
...
YES, MA'AM?
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE HONEST ABOUT IT? OTHER THAN THAT...
MISS?
SORRY, I'M INTERESTED IN THIS CONVERSATION THE PEOPLE BEHIND ME ARE HAVING.

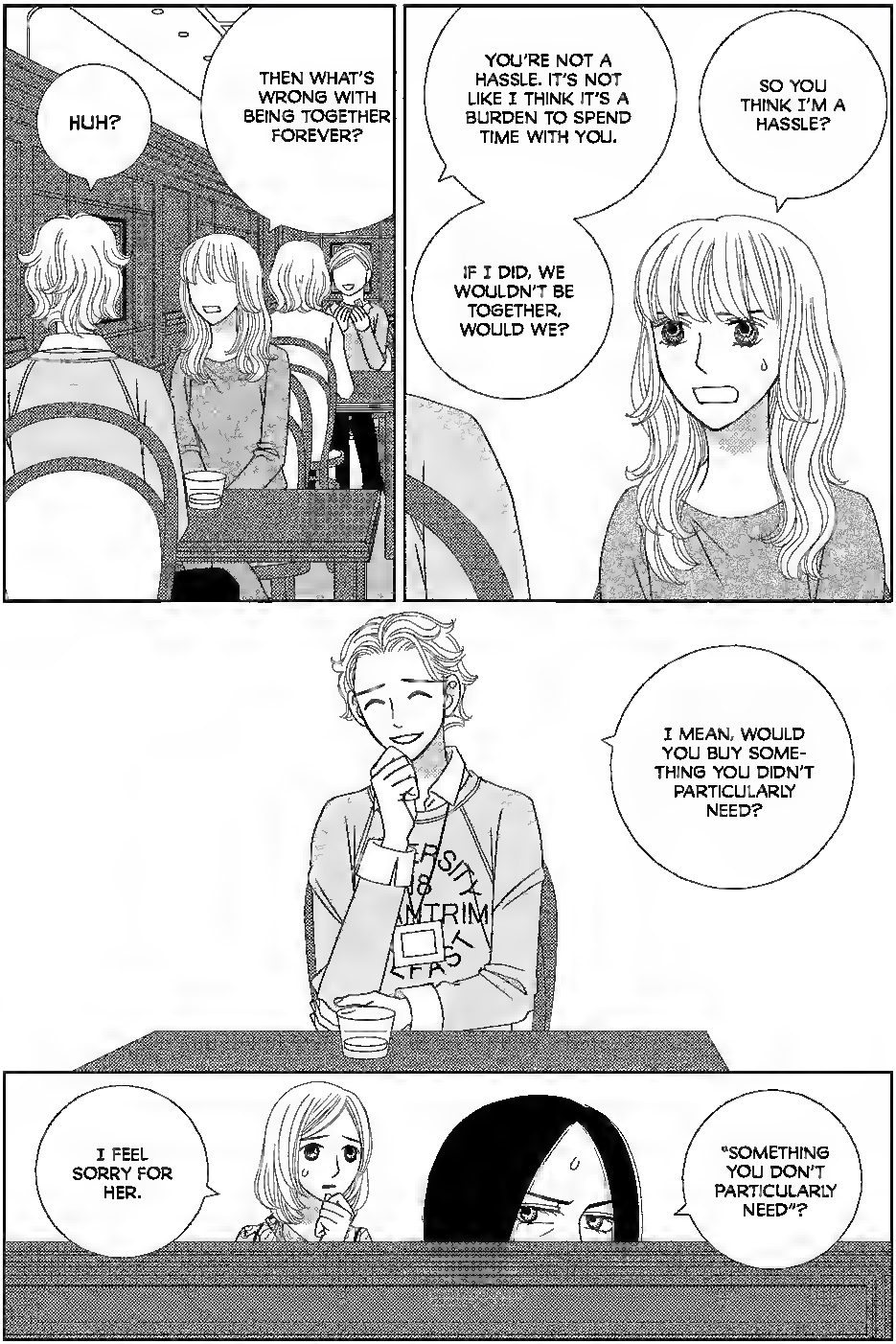

I JUST DON'T SEE THE POINT IN GETTING MARRIED AT ALL.
UNIVERSITY OF ANTRIM 18 BELFAST
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO MARRY ME, KAZAMI-SAN?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO MARRY YOU.
THEN WHY ARE YOU DATING ME?
I HAVE HOBBIES AND FRIENDS, SO I DON'T GET LONELY. ACTUALLY, HAVING SOME ALONE TIME CAN BE A BIT OF A RELIEF.
I KNOW HOW TO COOK, AND IF I'M BUSY, I CAN GET TAKEOUT. THE CHORES AREN'T MUCH TROUBLE, EITHER.


I LIKE YOU, AND IT'S NICE TO BE TOGETHER.

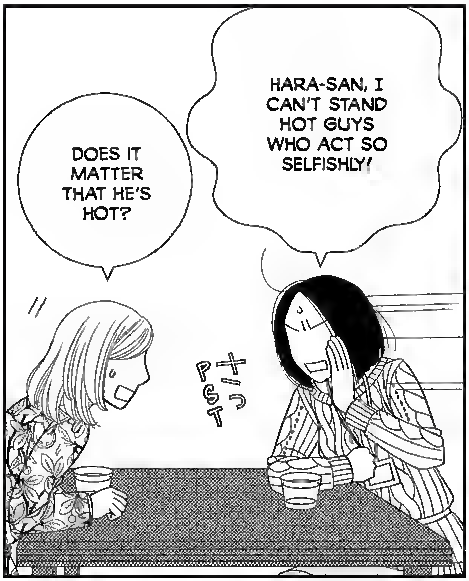

IT'S NOT LIKE BEING TOGETHER MAKES MY LIFE ANY EASIER.
BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE WITH ME FOREVER?
ACTUALLY, IT'S A BIT OF A HASSLE.


GOD.
MISS...

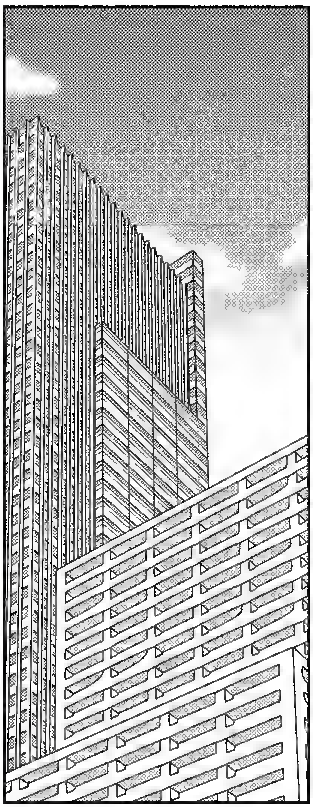
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, I HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT YOU WANT AND NOT JUST WHAT I DO.

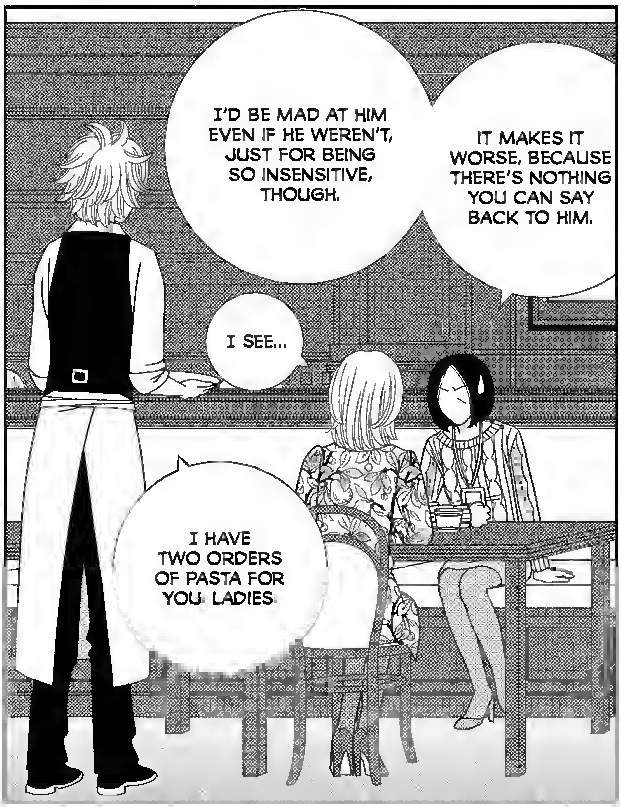

HUH?
THEN WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING TOGETHER FOREVER?
YOU'RE NOT A HASSLE. IT'S NOT LIKE I THINK IT'S A BURDEN TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.
SO YOU THINK I'M A HASSLE?
IF I DID, WE WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER, WOULD WE?
I MEAN, WOULD YOU BUY SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T PARTICULARLY NEED?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
"SOMETHING YOU DON'T PARTICULARLY NEED"?

...BUT I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU.
YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF, KAZAMI-SAN.
MAYBE SO...
WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TIME.
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK.
SEE YA.
UNIVERSITY OF ANTRIM BELFAST

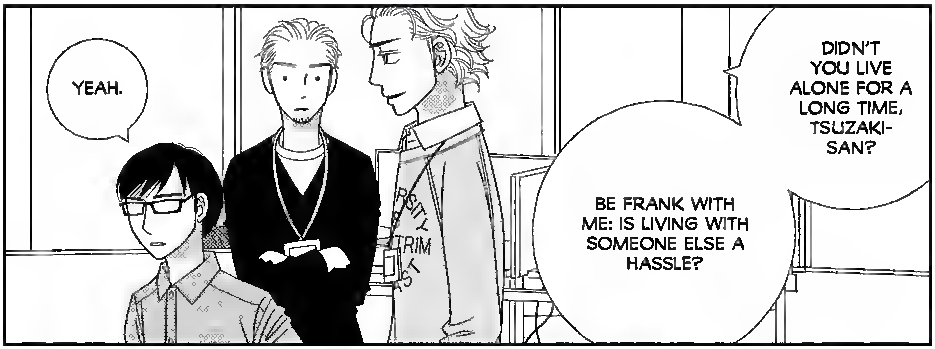

HARA-SAN, I CAN'T STAND HOT GUYS WHO ACT SO SELFISHLY!
DOES IT MATTER THAT HE'S HOT?
ナニっPET

HASN'T OUR FOOD BEEN TAKING A WHILE?
OH! Y-YES, IT HAS.

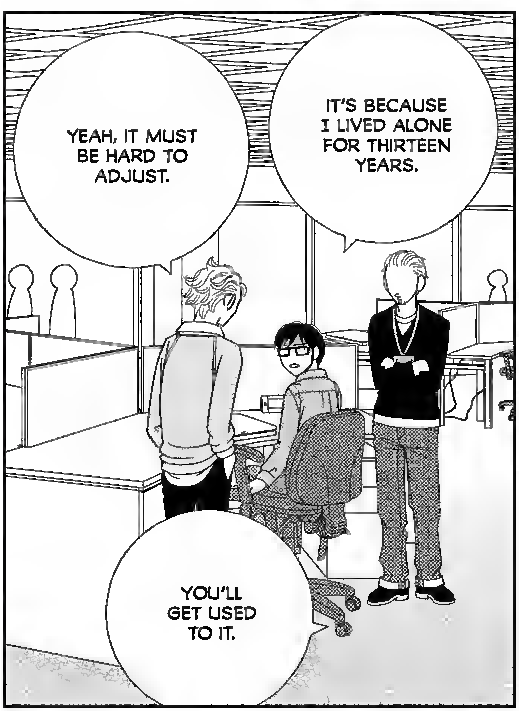



I'D BE MAD AT HIM EVEN IF HE WEREN'T, JUST FOR BEING SO INSENSITIVE, THOUGH.
IT MAKES IT WORSE, BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY BACK TO HIM.
I SEE...
I HAVE TWO ORDERS OF PASTA FOR YOU LADIES.

WANT TO JOIN US, KAZAMI-SAN? I'M TEASING THE NEWLYWED.
I'M BACK! YOU TWO LOOK LIVELY.
PLEASE DON'T INVITE PEOPLE TO GANG UP ON ME
SHOULDN'T YOUR WIFE HAVE DECORATED YOUR LUNCH A LITTLE MORE, LIKE WITH A PINK HEART WITH THE WORD "YES" IN THE MIDDLE?
TO MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GO-ING TO DO TONIGHT.
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
NEWLYWED, HUH?
"I GUESS"?
HM, I GUESS.
HOW'S BEING MARRIED? DO YOU LIKE IT?

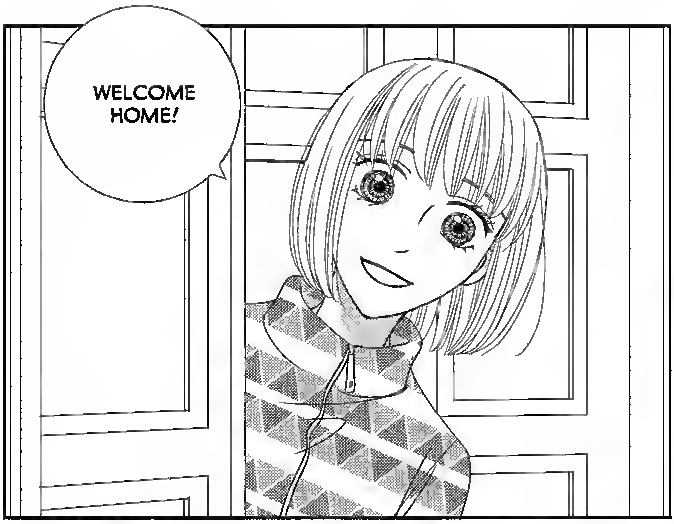

YEAH.
DIDN'T YOU LIVE ALONE FOR A LONG TIME, TSUZAKI-SAN?
BE FRANK WITH ME: IS LIVING WITH SOMEONE ELSE A HASSLE?

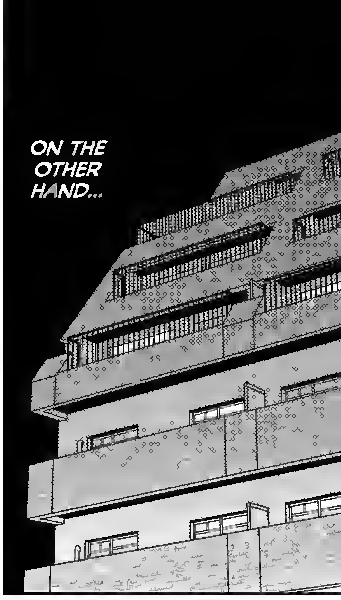
IT DOES GET ON MY NERVES A LITTLE.

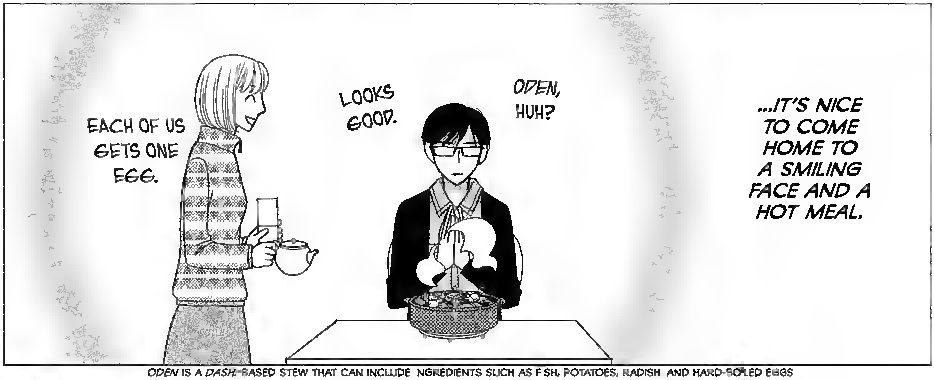

YEAH, IT MUST BE HARD TO ADJUST.
IT'S BECAUSE I LIVED ALONE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS.
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.

WHAT?!
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH MY WIFE, BUT IT'S HARD TO LET MY GUARD DOWN WITH HER AROUND.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU.

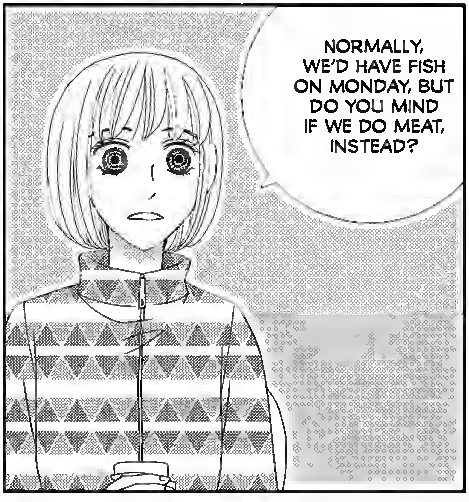
YOU'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK ONCE YOU'VE CLOCKED IN.
SEE YOU GUYS.
YES, SIR.
UNIVERSITY OF ANTRIM
MARRIAGE, HUH?
IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD TO MARRY SOMEONE HELPFUL.
I'M REALLY HELPFUL, KAZAMI-KUN.
HAHAHAHAHA!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
LOOK OUT FOR THAT GUY, KAZAMI-KUN!

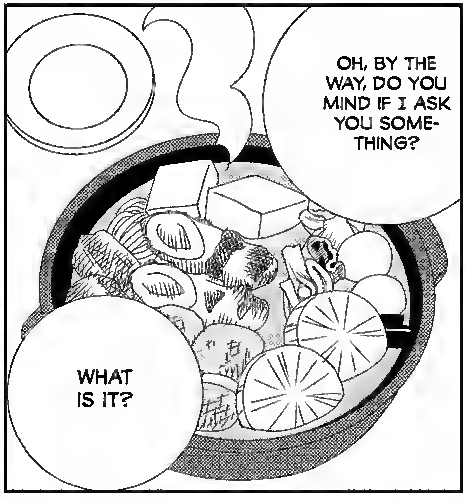


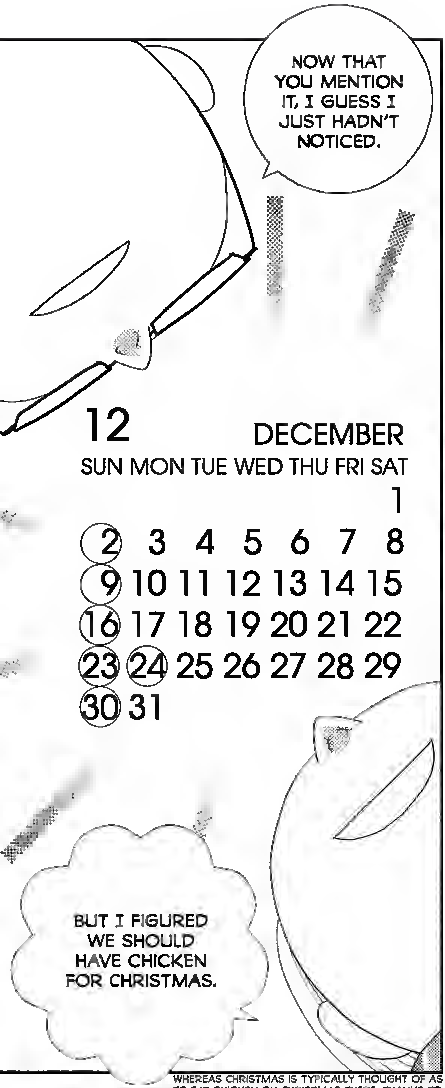




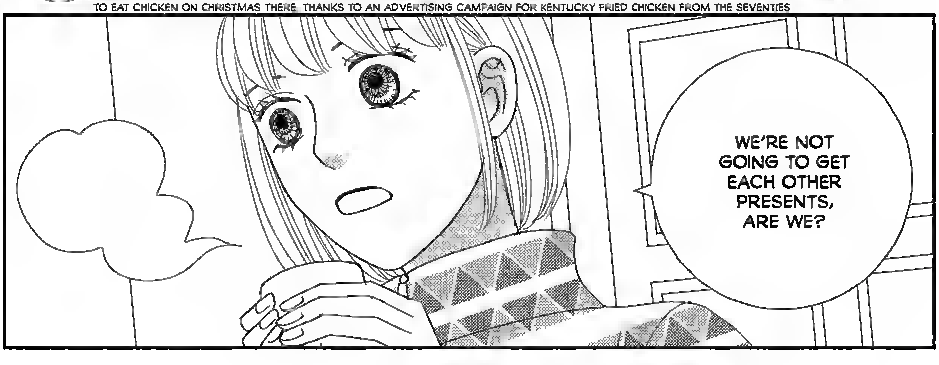
ODEN IS A *DASHI*-BASED STEW THAT CAN INCLUDE INGREDIENTS SUCH AS FISH, POTATOES, RADISH, AND HARD-BOILED EGGS

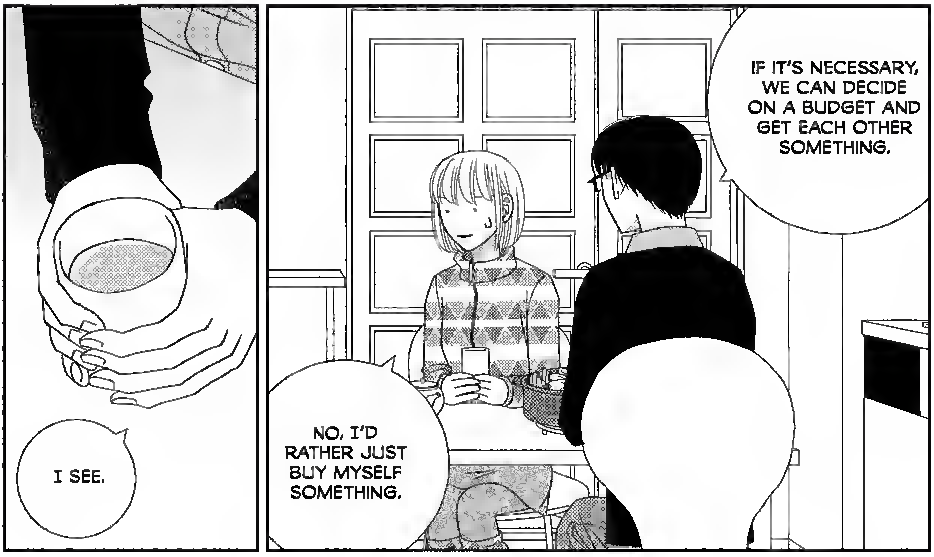


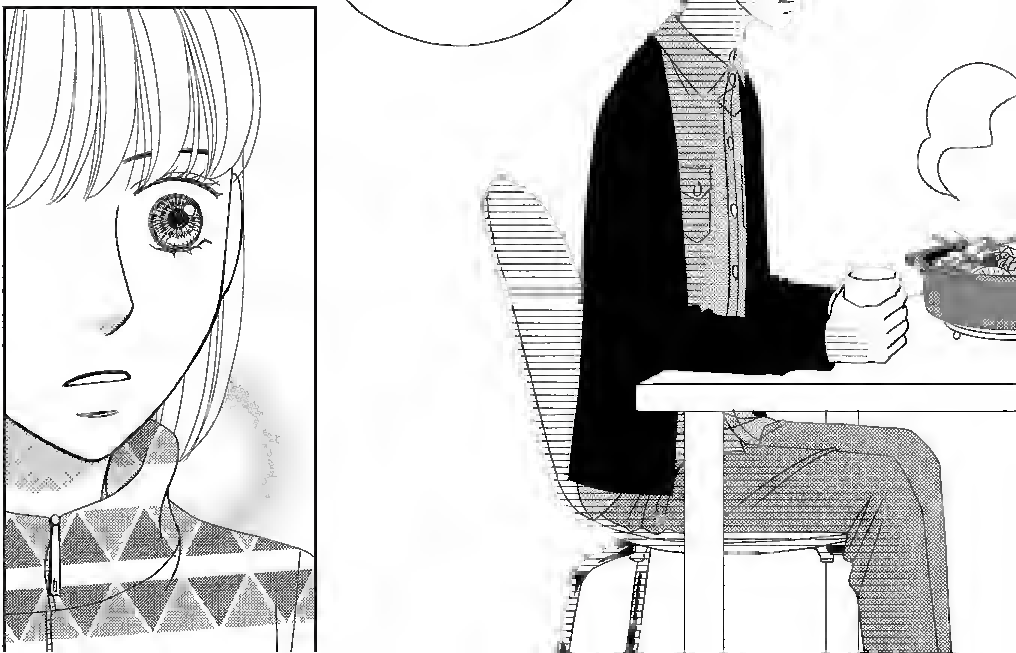


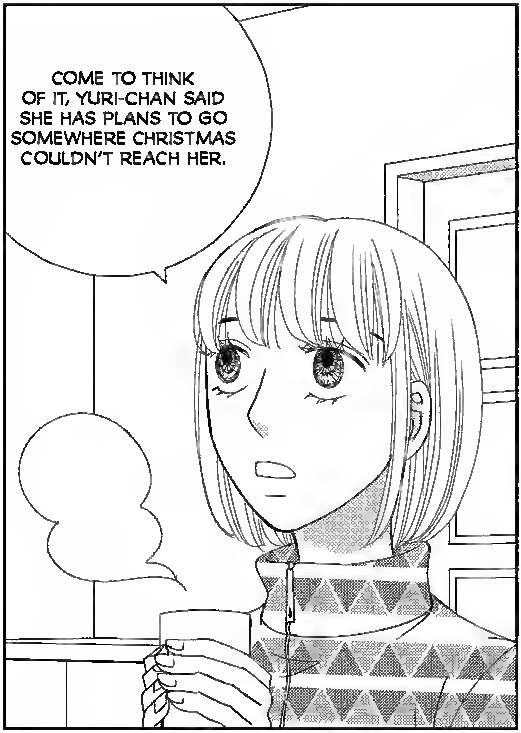

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I GUESS I JUST HADN'T NOTICED.
12 DECEMBER
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31
BUT I FIGURED WE SHOULD HAVE CHICKEN FOR CHRISTMAS.

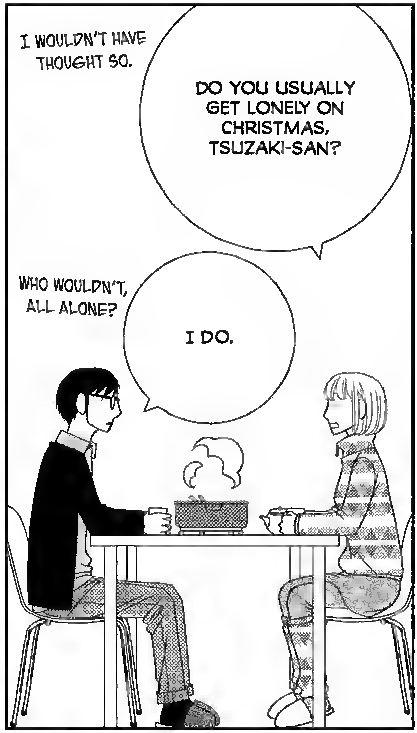
WHEREAS CHRISTMAS IS TYPICALLY THOUGHT OF AS A FAMILY HOLIDAY IN AMERICA AND EUROPE IT IS MORE OF A COUPLE'S HOLIDAY IN JAPAN. IT IS COMMON TO EAT CHICKEN ON CHRISTMAS THERE, THANKS TO AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN FROM THE SEVENTIES.



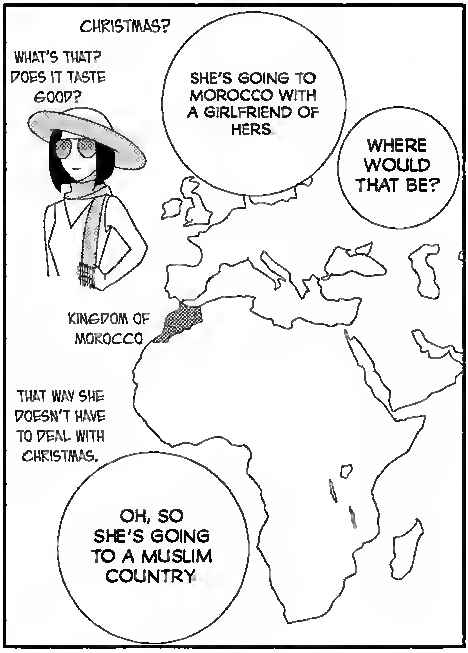

I SEE.
NO, I'D RATHER JUST BUY MYSELF SOMETHING.
IF IT'S NECESSARY, WE CAN DECIDE ON A BUDGET AND GET EACH OTHER SOMETHING.

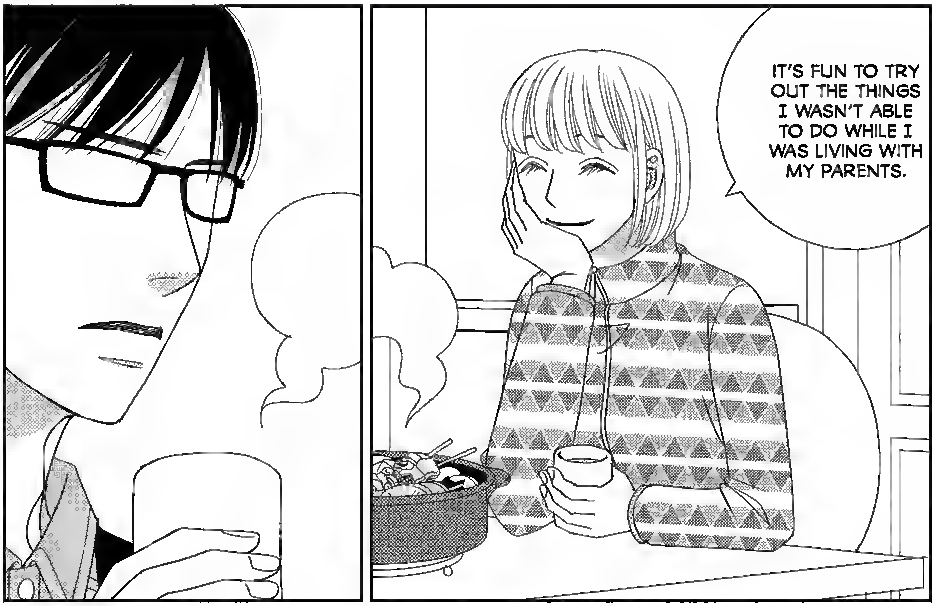

Y'KNOW, I DON'T SEE ANY GOOD REASON FOR US TO MAKE OURSELVES FEEL LONELY THIS YEAR.


COME TO THINK OF IT, YURI-CHAN SAID SHE HAS PLANS TO GO SOMEWHERE CHRISTMAS COULDN'T REACH HER.

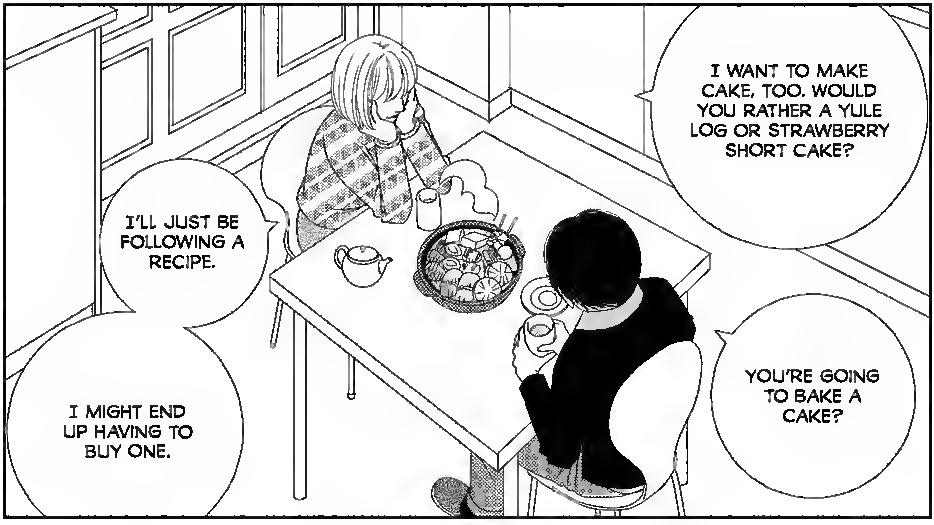

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT SO.
DO YOU USUALLY GET LONELY ON CHRISTMAS, TSUZAKI-SAN?
WHO WOULDN'T, ALL ALONE?
I DO.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE THAT?
DO YOU MIND IF I MAKE STUFFED CHICKEN FOR CHRISTMAS?
WELL, I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE, SO I WANT TO GIVE IT A SHOT.

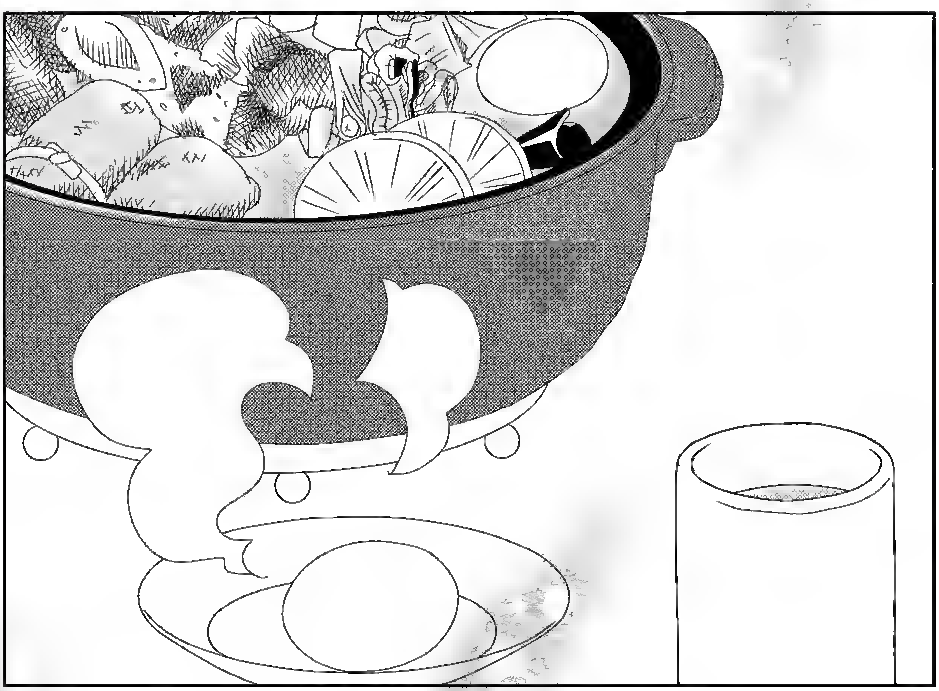

CHRISTMAS?
WHAT'S THAT? DOES IT TASTE GOOD?
SHE'S GOING TO MOROCCO WITH A GIRLFRIEND OF HERS.
WHERE WOULD THAT BE?
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
THAT WAY SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH CHRISTMAS.
OH, SO SHE'S GOING TO A MUSLIM COUNTRY.



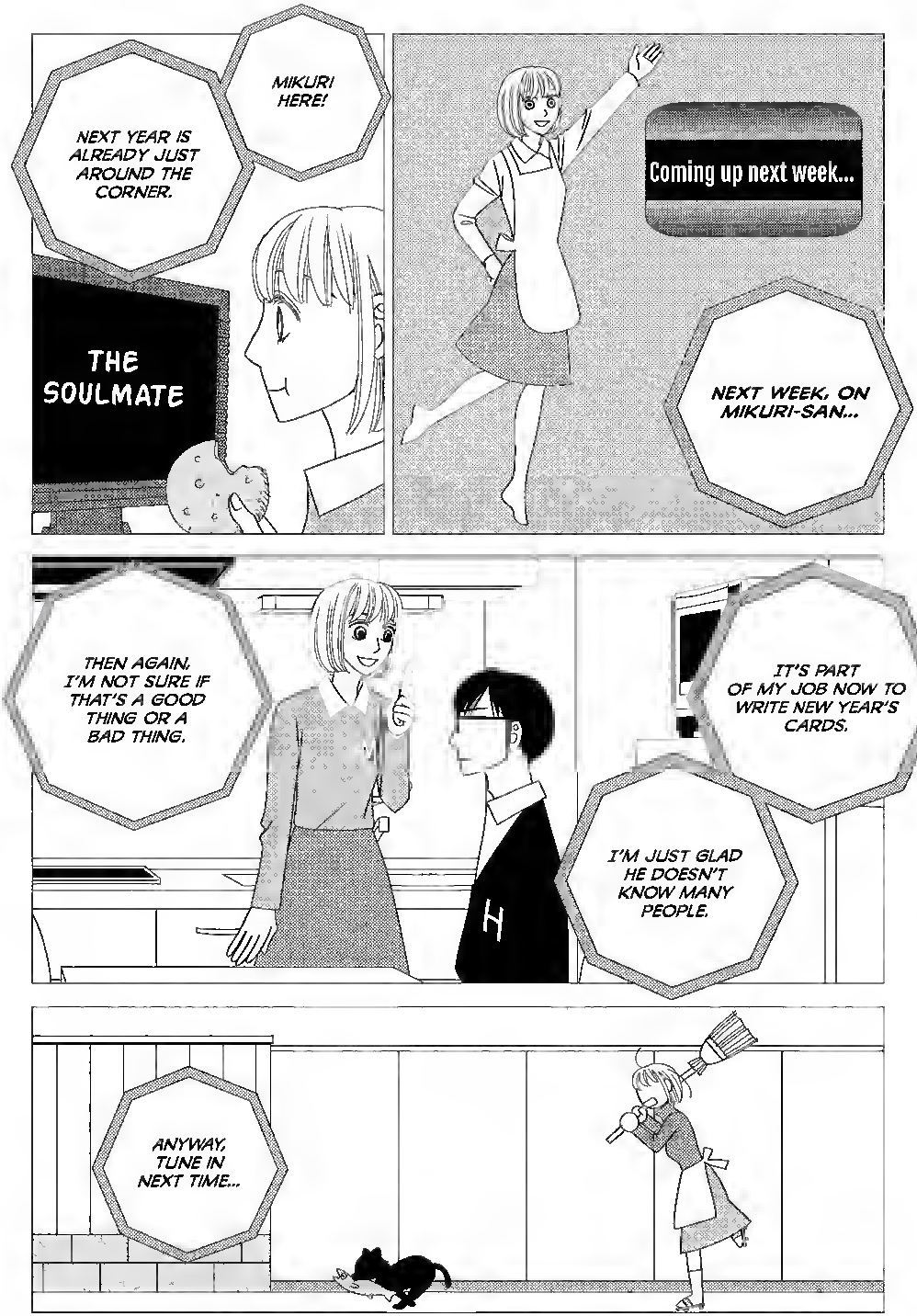
I'M PROBABLY NOT THE ONLY ONE HAVING TROUBLE LETTING MY GUARD DOWN...


I WANT TO MAKE CAKE, TOO. WOULD YOU RATHER A YULE LOG OR STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE?
I'LL JUST BE FOLLOWING A RECIPE.
I MIGHT END UP HAVING TO BUY ONE.
YOU'RE GOING TO BAKE A CAKE?

...BUT I GUESS THAT FOR ALL THE HASSLES OF LIVING WITH ANOTHER PERSON, THERE ARE SOME NICE THINGS ABOUT IT, TOO.

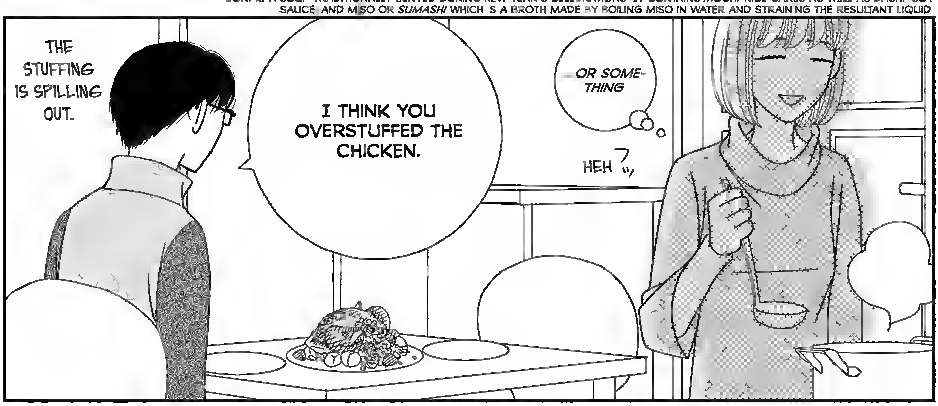


I FEEL LIKE I FORGOT THAT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.


MIKURI HERE!
NEXT YEAR IS ALREADY JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
THE SOULMATE
Coming up next week...
NEXT WEEK, ON MIKURI-SAN...
THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT SURE IF THAT'S A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING.
IT'S PART OF MY JOB NOW TO WRITE NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
I'M JUST GLAD HE DOESN'T KNOW MANY PEOPLE.
ANYWAY, TUNE IN NEXT TIME...

...FOR THREE NEW STORIES: "VISITING THE FAMILY FOR NEW YEAR'S," "DO YOU MAKE YOUR ZONI WITH MISO OR SUMASHI?," AND "CHRISTMAS HAS EVEN MADE IT TO MOROCCO"!
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
Presented by
KODANS
VISITING THE FAMILY FOR NEW YEAR'S
DO YOU MAKE YOUR ZONI WITH MISO OR SUMASHI?
CHRISTMAS HAS EVEN MADE IT TO MOROCCO

ZONI IS A SOUP TRADITIONALLY SERVED DURING NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS. IT CONTAINS *MOCHI* RICE CAKES AS WELL AS *DASHI* SOY SAUCE, AND MISO OR *SUMASHI* WHICH IS A BROTH MADE BY BOILING MISO IN WATER AND STRAINING THE RESULTANT LIQUID.



NO.

IT'S GREAT. IT JUST NEEDS A LITTLE SALT.

I'LL DEAL WITH THE FUTURE ONE STEP AT A TIME.

SORRY, I THINK IT TURNED OUT A LITTLE BLAND.

I WON'T ASK.

DID YOU MANAGE TO MAKE THAT CAKE?

WELL, I DID MAKE IT, BUT WHETHER I MADE IT WELL IS ANOTHER STORY.

FOR NOW, I'LL FOCUS ON MAKING MY WORKPLACE AS PLEASANT AS POSSIBLE.

THAT REMINDS ME, TSUZAKI-SAN, DOES YOUR FAMILY MAKE *ZONI* WITH MISO OR *SUMASHI*?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE *OSECHI*, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE FOR THAT.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE *ZONI* FOR NEW YEAR'S, I'M FINE.

REFERS COLLECTIVELY TO THE FOOD TRADITIONALLY EATEN AT JAPANESE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS. WHAT *OSECHI* CONSISTS OF VARIES BY REGION, BUT IT IS TYPICALLY AN APPETIZER, SOMETHING BOILED, SOMETHING MADE WITH VINEGAR, AND SOMETHING GRILLED OR FRIED

The Full-Time Wife Escapist

Tsunami Umino

The Full-Time Wife Escapist

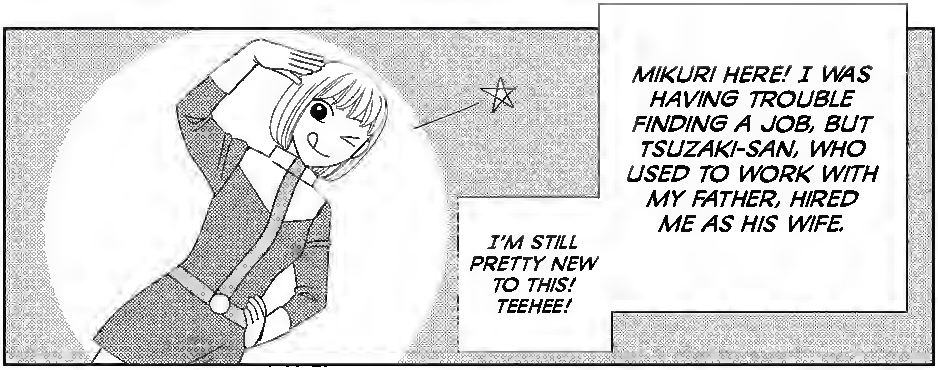
Tsunami Umino

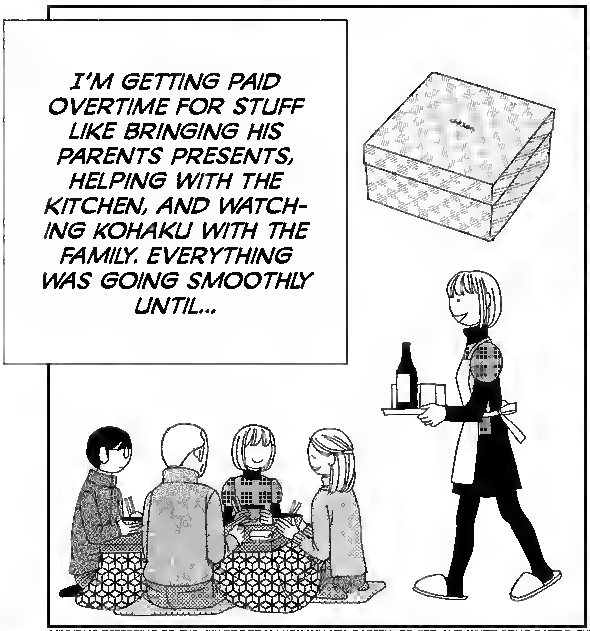
OH YEAH...
...I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING.
WE ARE A "COUPLE," AFTER ALL.

The Full-Time Wife Escapist

3

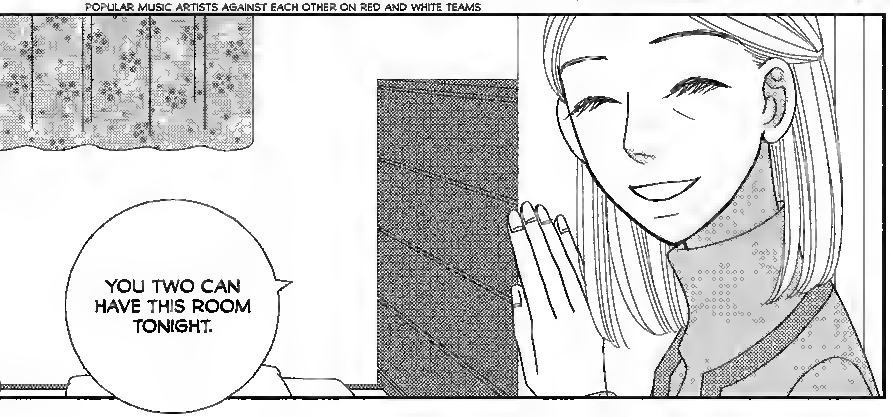
Like Bamboo Sprouting After a Storm

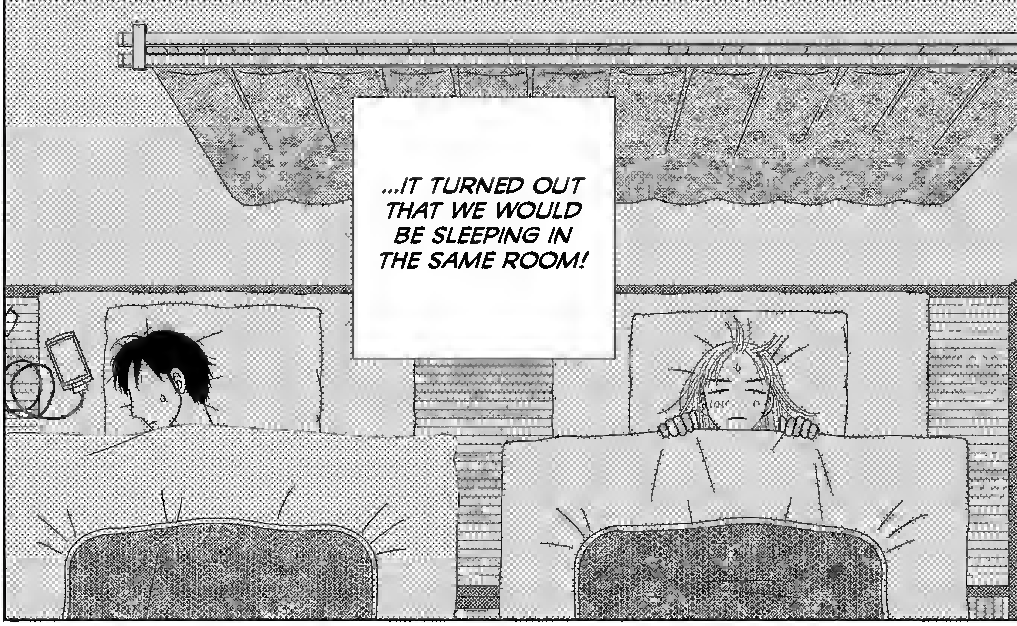

MIKURI HERE! I WAS HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A JOB, BUT TSUZAKI-SAN, WHO USED TO WORK WITH MY FATHER, HIRED ME AS HIS WIFE.
I'M STILL PRETTY NEW TO THIS! TEEHEE!

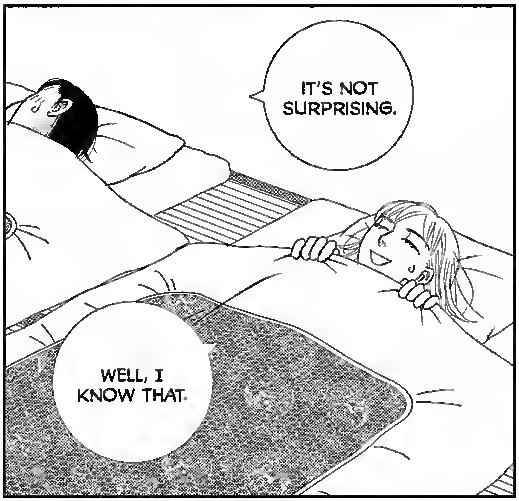

I'M GETTING PAID OVERTIME FOR STUFF LIKE BRINGING HIS PARENTS PRESENTS, HELPING WITH THE KITCHEN, AND WATCHING KOHAKU WITH THE FAMILY. EVERYTHING WAS GOING SMOOTHLY UNTIL...

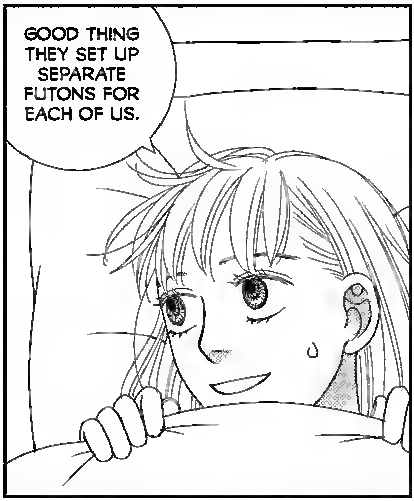
TODAY, WE'RE WORKING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE. MY ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE THE BRIDE STAYING WITH HER HUSBAND'S FAMILY DURING NEW YEAR'S FOR THE FIRST TIME!

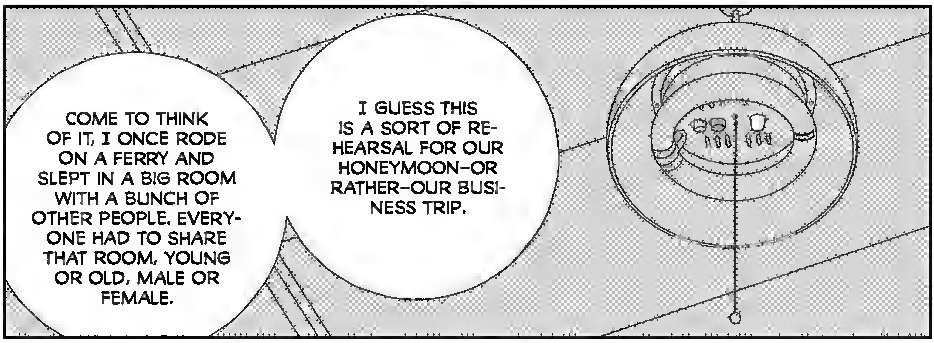
MIKURI IS REFERRING TO THE NHK PROGRAM KOHAKU UTA GASSEN, OR RED AND WHITE SONG BATTLE. THIS PROGRAM BROADCAST EVERY NEW YEAR'S EVE. PITS POPULAR MUSIC ARTISTS AGAINST EACH OTHER ON RED AND WHITE TEAMS.



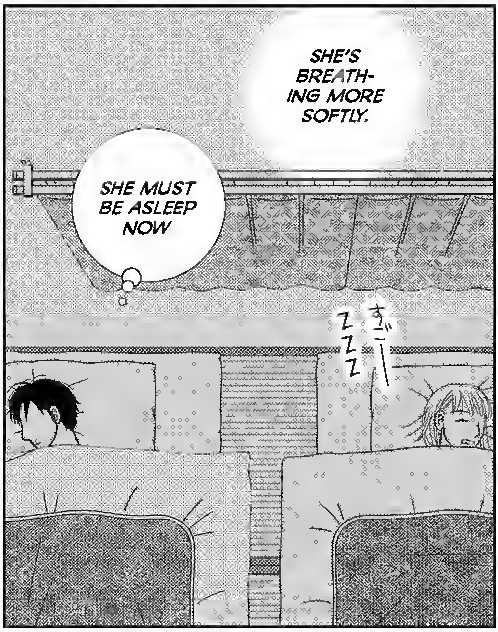

...IT TURNED OUT THAT WE WOULD BE SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM!


IT'S NOT SURPRISING.
WELL, I KNOW THAT.

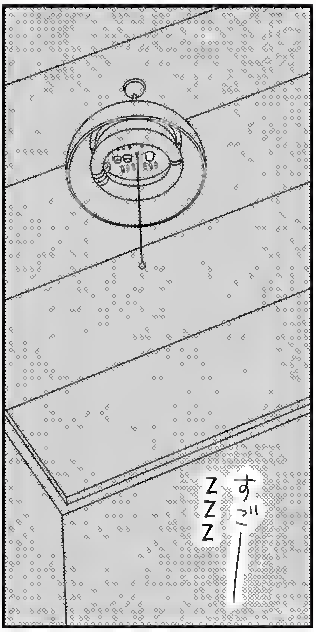

GOOD THING THEY SET UP SEPARATE FUTONS FOR EACH OF US.


COME TO THINK OF IT, I ONCE RODE ON A FERRY AND SLEPT IN A BIG ROOM WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE. EVERYONE HAD TO SHARE THAT ROOM, YOUNG OR OLD, MALE OR FEMALE.
I GUESS THIS IS A SORT OF REHEARSAL FOR OUR HONEYMOON–OR RATHER–OUR BUSINESS TRIP.

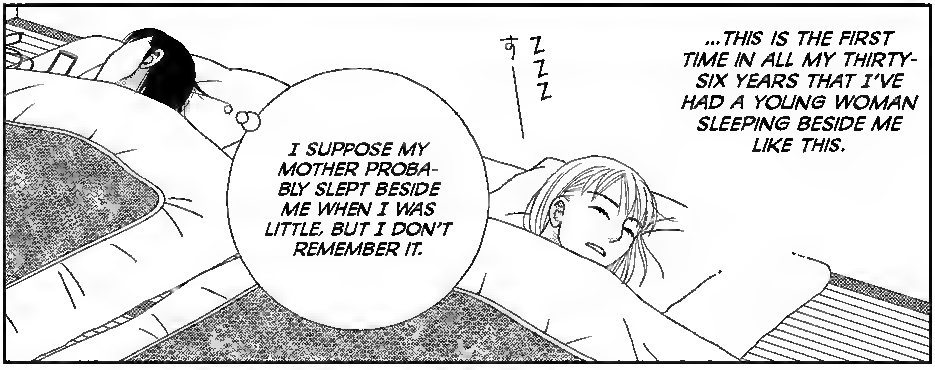
...
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A FERRY.
OH YEAH? HUH.
YEAH, THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
I SLEPT IN A ROOM WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER BOYS ON A SCHOOL FIELD TRIP ONCE, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY THE SAME THING.
OH YEAH, I'D LIKE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF TSUZAKI-SAN WITHOUT HIS GLASSES ON, TOO. I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE...
I'LL HAVE TO GET UP EARLY AND CHANGE CLOTHES BEFORE TSUZAKI-SAN WAKES UP.
THEN AGAIN, THE SAME THING WOULD HAPPEN WITH MY BROTHER. MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT I'M NOT USED TO HAVING ANYONE THERE WITH ME.
I THOUGHT SHARING A BEDROOM WOULD BE NO BIG DEAL, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY MAKING ME A LITTLE NERVOUS.



THERE WE GO



BUT Y'KNOW...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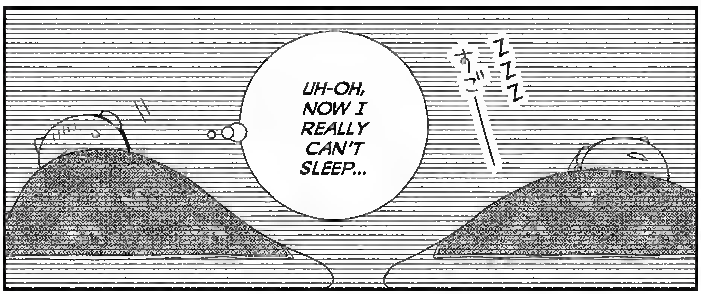
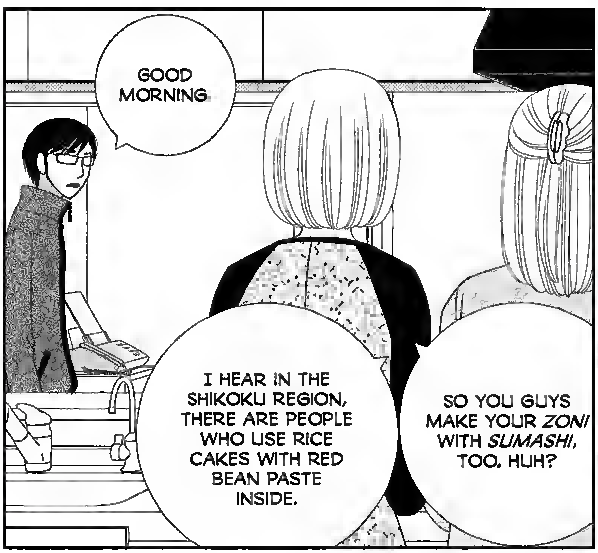
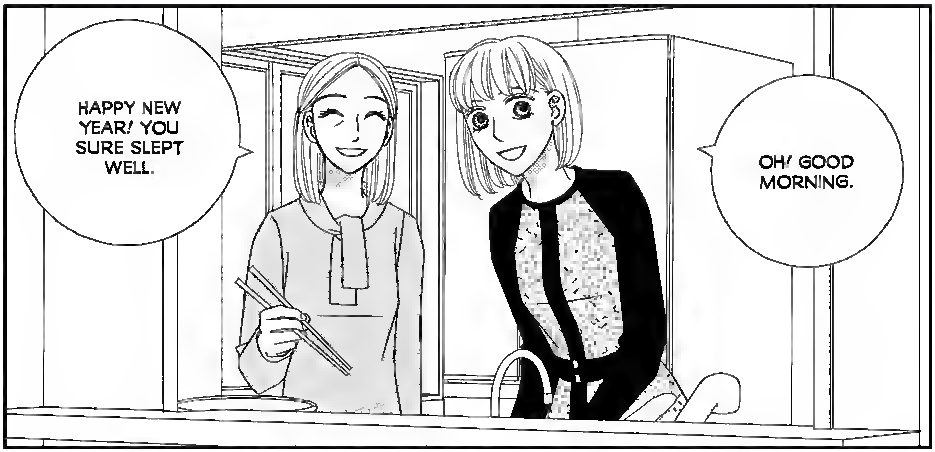
I SUPPOSE MY MOTHER PROBABLY SLEPT BESIDE ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT.
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN ALL MY THIRTY-SIX YEARS THAT I'VE HAD A YOUNG WOMAN SLEEPING BESIDE ME LIKE THIS.

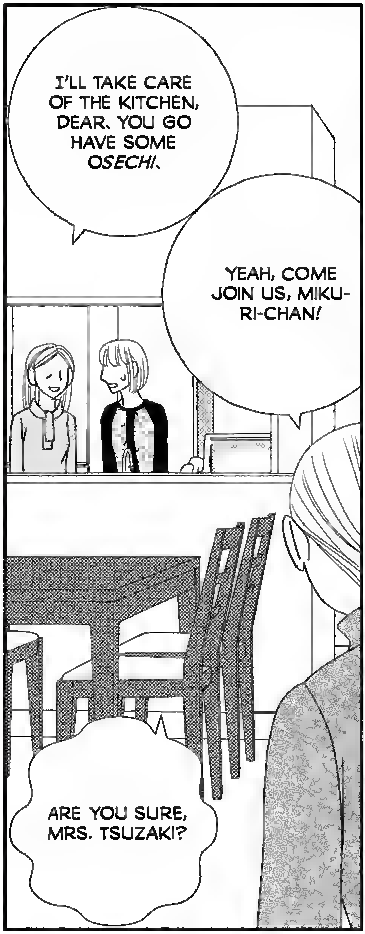
I WONDER IF SHE'S EVER SLEPT WITH A YOUNG MAN BESIDE HER.

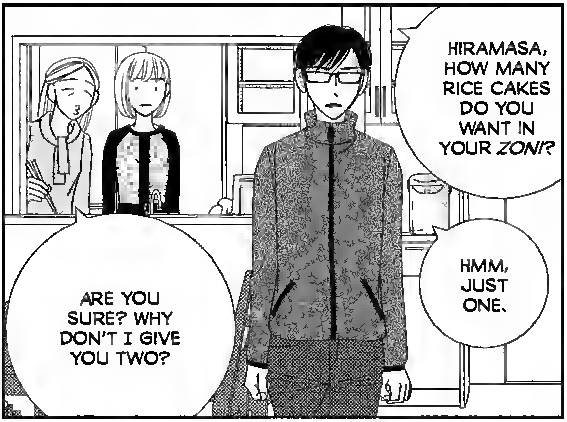
I DON'T MEAN IN A BIG ROOM ON A FERRY, EITHER.




GOOD MORNING.
I HEAR IN THE SHIKOKU REGION, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE RICE CAKES WITH RED BEAN PASTE INSIDE.
SO YOU GUYS MAKE YOUR *ZONI* WITH *SUMASHI*, TOO. HUH?

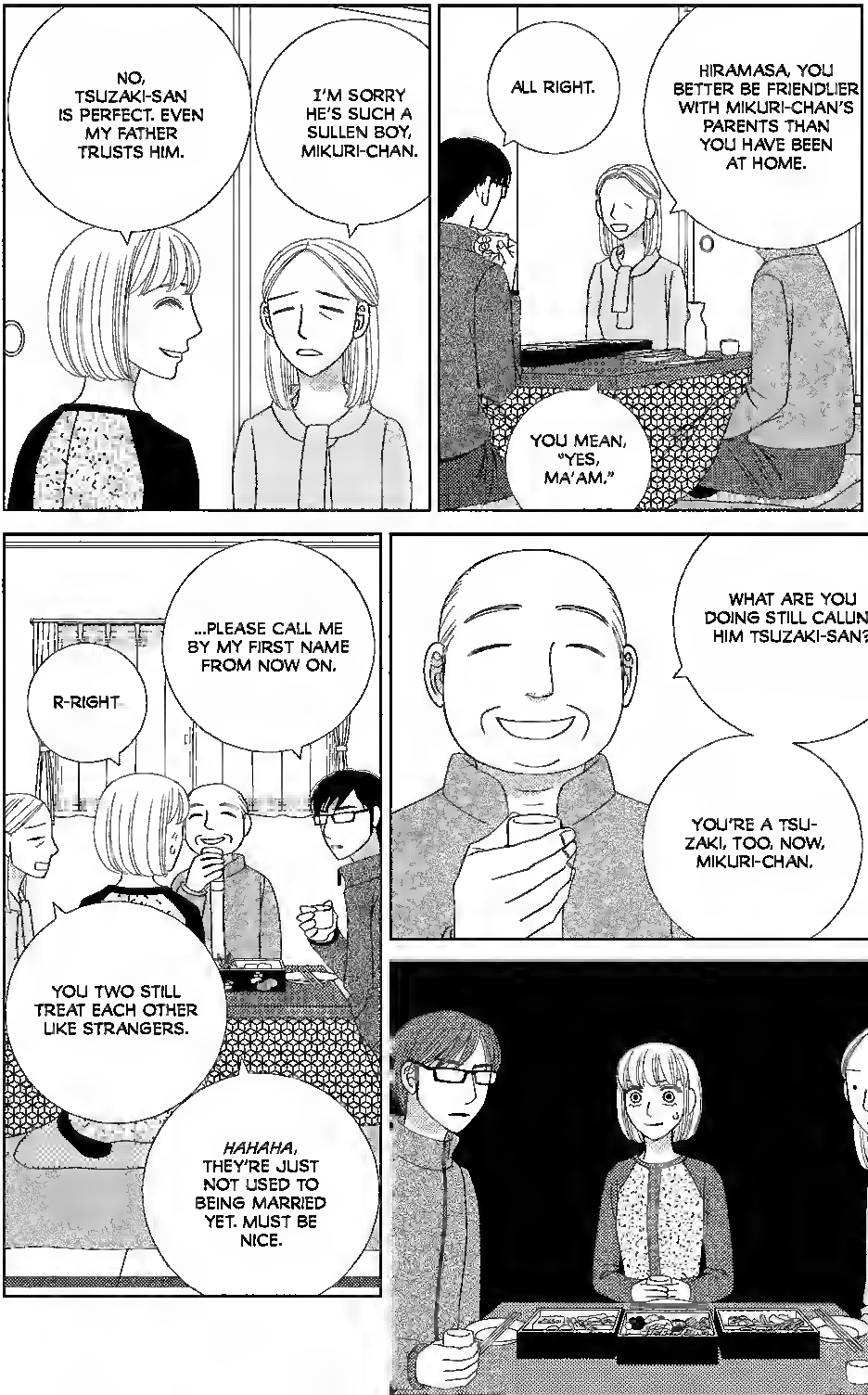

HAPPY NEW YEAR! YOU SURE SLEPT WELL.
OH! GOOD MORNING.


I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE KITCHEN, DEAR. YOU GO HAVE SOME *OSECHI*.
YEAH, COME JOIN US, MIKU-RI-CHAN!
ARE YOU SURE, MRS. TSUZAKI?

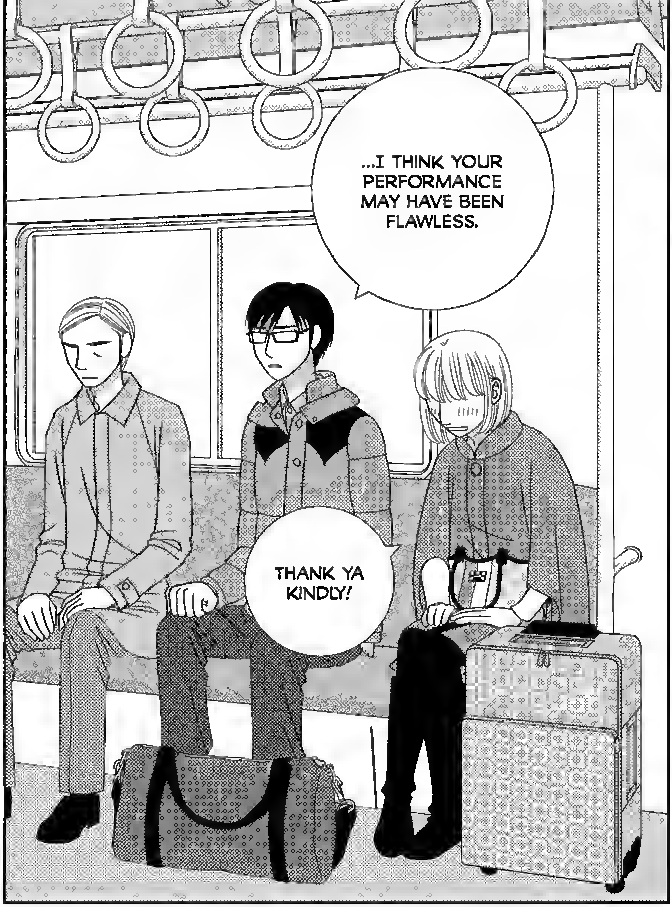

HIRAMASA, HOW MANY RICE CAKES DO YOU WANT IN YOUR *ZONI*?
HMM, JUST ONE.
ARE YOU SURE? WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU TWO?

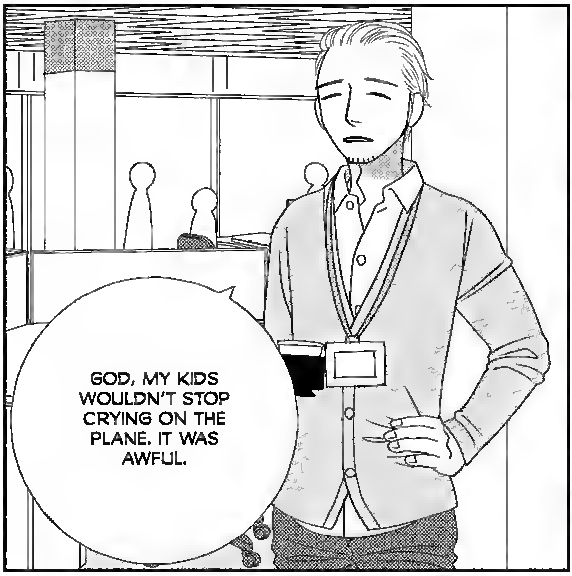
I'LL HAVE *ZONI* AGAIN LATER. FOR NOW, I'M GOING TO DRINK AND HAVE SOME *OSECHI*.
GREAT! WHY DON'T WE START WITH SOME *SAKE*?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HEAT IT UP FOR YOU?

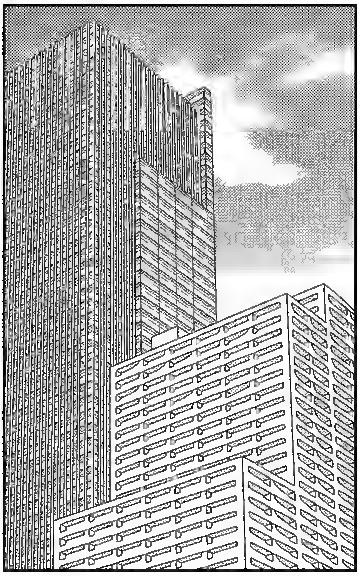
IT'S A BOLD THING TO DO. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.
HE ALWAYS SAID THAT'S WHAT THEY WOULD DO, BUT I NEVER BELIEVED HIM.
YES, MA'AM. WE'VE GOT TO GO SAY HI TO MY PARENTS.
LEAVING ALREADY, ARE YOU?
OH YEAH, YOUR FATHER'S RETIRED, AND THEY'RE LIVING OUT IN THE COUNTRY IN A TRADITIONAL HOUSE NOW, RIGHT? SOUNDS NICE.
AT LEAST THE WEATHER SHOULD BE NICE, CONSIDERING THE CLIMATE OUT THERE.
IT'S THE FIRST NEW YEAR SINCE THEY'VE MOVED. I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING.
WELL, IT WILL TAKE A WHILE TO GET THERE FROM HERE.
THERE'S A RESORT HOTEL IN FRONT OF THE STATION THERE, THOUGH, SO THAT'S CONVENIENT.
IT'S A NICE LOCATION, BUT IT'S PRETTY FAR AWAY, ISN'T IT?


NO, TSUZAKI-SAN IS PERFECT. EVEN MY FATHER TRUSTS HIM.
I'M SORRY HE'S SUCH A SULLEN BOY, MIKURI-CHAN.
ALL RIGHT.
HIRAMASA, YOU BETTER BE FRIENDLIER WITH MIKURI-CHAN'S PARENTS THAN YOU HAVE BEEN AT HOME.
YOU MEAN, "YES, MA'AM."
R-RIGHT.
...PLEASE CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME FROM NOW ON.
YOU TWO STILL TREAT EACH OTHER LIKE STRANGERS.
HAHAHA, THEY'RE JUST NOT USED TO BEING MARRIED YET. MUST BE NICE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING STILL CALLING HIM TSUZAKI-SAN?
YOU'RE A TSUZAKI, TOO, NOW, MIKURI-CHAN.

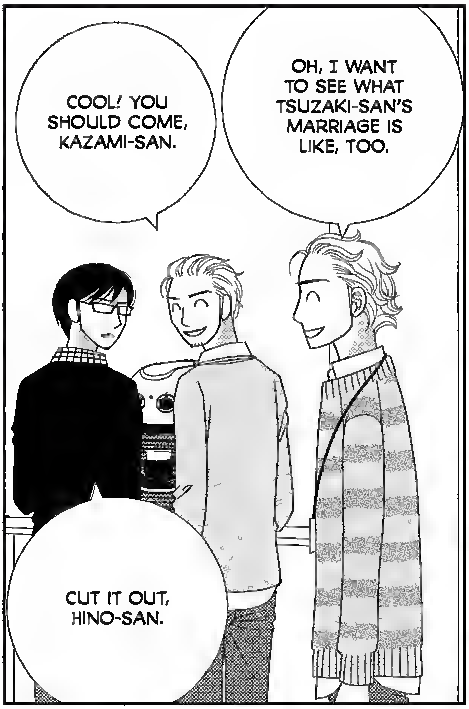
..I'M NOT A TSUZAKI, THOUGH.
ガタン
CHUG
ゴトン
CHUG
IT WILL ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE IF WE TELL THEM IT'S A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE. WHAT'S THE HARM IN A LITTLE WHITE LIE?
WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY APPLIED FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE.
HOW DO YOU THINK I DID, BY THE WAY?
I DON'T MIND. YOU HAD TO HELP MY MOTHER COOK AND CLEAN. BUT ALL I'LL HAVE TO DO IS SIT AROUND.
Y'KNOW, YOU PAID ME TO VISIT YOUR FAMILY, BUT I'M MAKING YOU VISIT MINE FOR FREE. SORRY ABOUT THAT, TSUZA--I MEAN, HIRAMASA-SAN.


...I THINK YOUR PERFORMANCE MAY HAVE BEEN FLAWLESS.
THANK YA KINDLY!

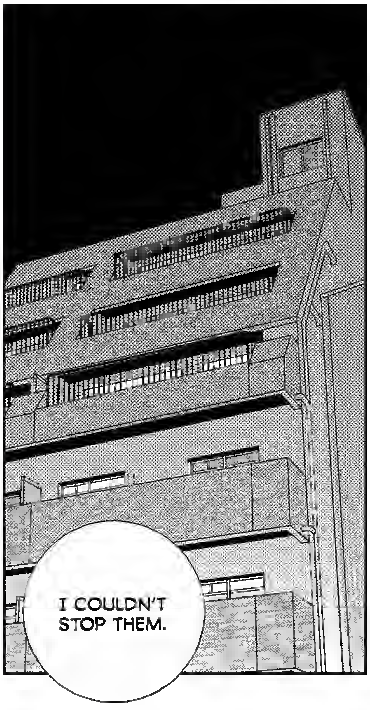

GOD, MY KIDS WOULDN'T STOP CRYING ON THE PLANE. IT WAS AWFUL.



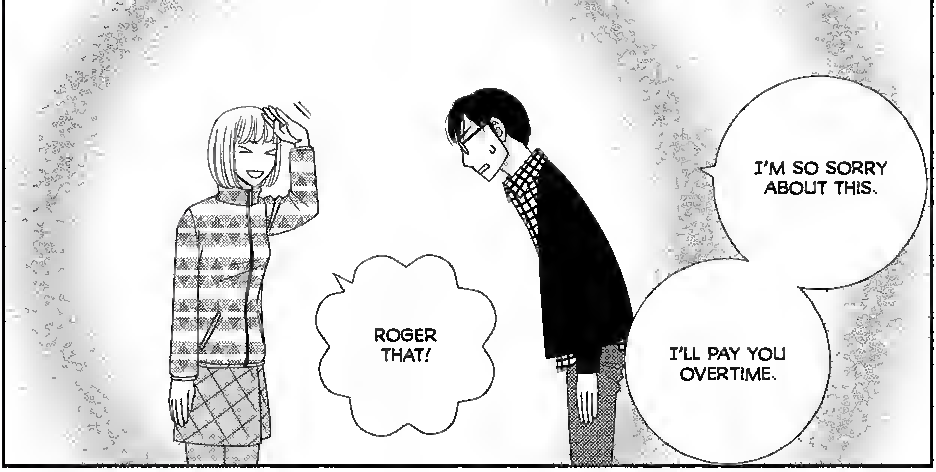
SO HOW WAS YOUR FIRST VISIT HOME AFTER GETTING MARRIED, TSUZAKI-SAN?
YEAH, BUT AT LEAST THE OLD COUPLE NEXT TO US WERE NICE ABOUT IT. THEY WERE LIKE, "OH! WHAT CUTE AND LIVELY CHILDREN YOU HAVE!"
YOU CAN'T JUST CHANGE CARS LIKE ON A TRAIN, HUH?
THAT'S A PRETTY BUSINESSLIKE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
WAS IT JUST WORK TO YOU?
IT WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
HUH?
HEY, HOW ABOUT I COME OVER TO YOUR PLACE SOMETIME?
COME ON, YOU'VE BEEN TO MINE.
WELL, I'M PAYING GOOD MONEY...
Y'KNOW, YOU DON'T SEEM JUST MARRIED, TSUZAKI-SAN.

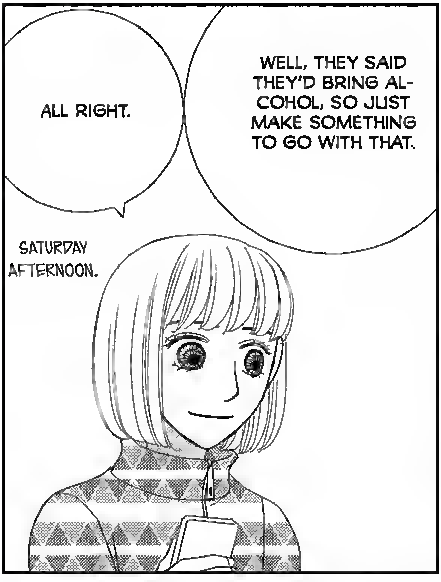

COOL! YOU SHOULD COME, KAZAMI-SAN.
OH, I WANT TO SEE WHAT TSUZAKI-SAN'S MARRIAGE IS LIKE, TOO.
CUT IT OUT, HINO-SAN.

I DON'T GET MUSHY.
I WANT TO SEE YOU BEING MUSHY WITH HER.
I WANT TO SEE YOUR WIFE.


I COULDN'T STOP THEM.

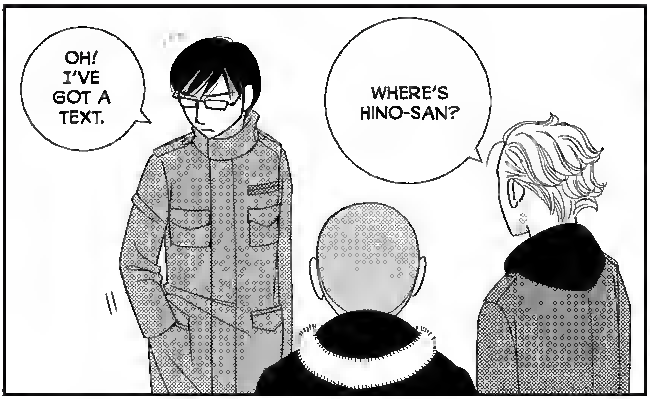
WANT TO JOIN US, NUMATA-SAN?
I'D LIKE TO GO TO TSUZAKI-KUN'S HOUSE, TOO.
WHAT?!

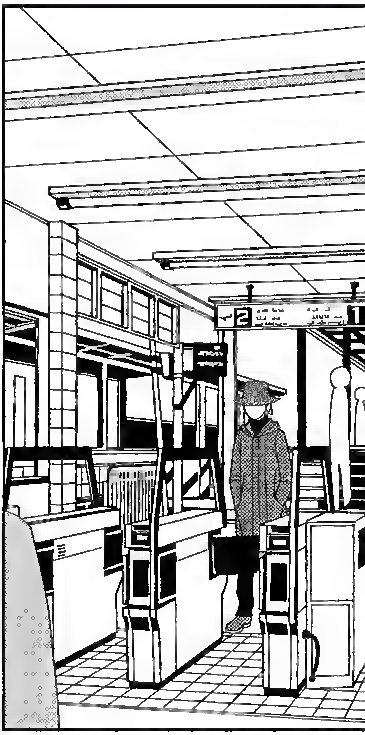

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I'LL PAY YOU OVERTIME.
ROGER THAT!

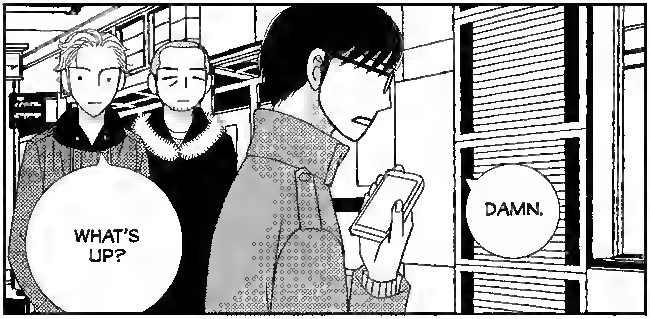

ALL RIGHT.
WELL, THEY SAID THEY'D BRING ALCOHOL, SO JUST MAKE SOMETHING TO GO WITH THAT.
SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

ANY FOODS THEY DON'T LIKE?
SO WE'LL HAVE THREE GUESTS.
HMM, I'M NOT SURE.

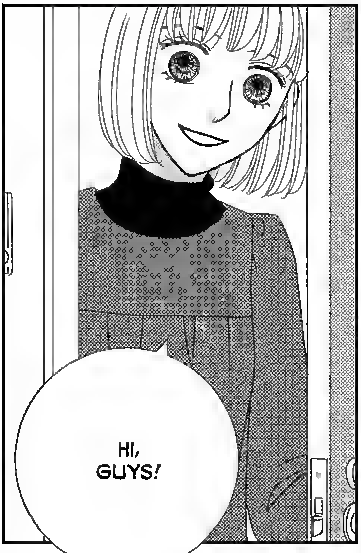
NO PROBLEM.
WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE THEY DON'T SEE MY ROOM.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM ASKING WHY I ONLY HAVE A TWIN-SIZE BED.


OH! I'VE GOT A TEXT.
WHERE'S HINO-SAN?



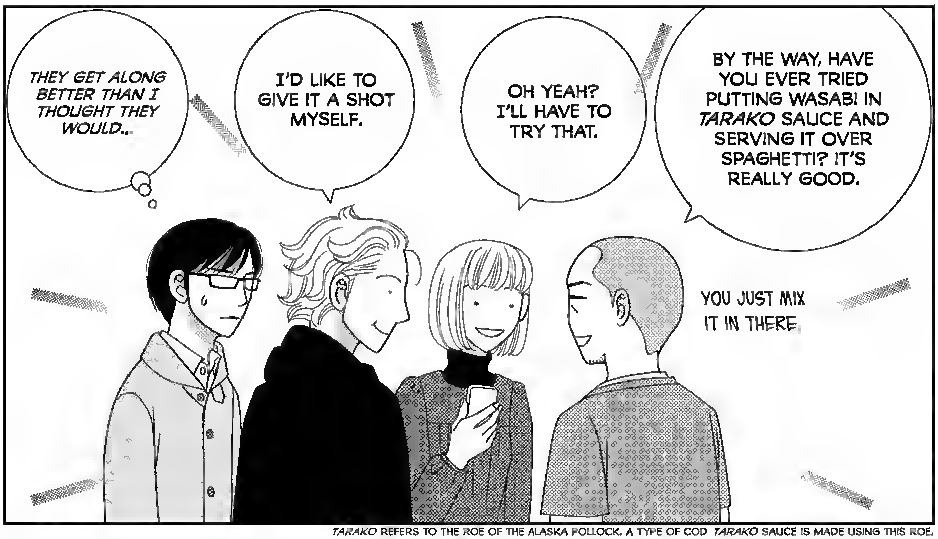

WHAT'S UP?
DAMN.

THANKS FOR HAVING US!
NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS.
ONE OF HINO-SAN'S KIDS WOKE UP WITH A FEVER AND HAD TO GO TO THE DOCTOR, SO HE CAN'T MAKE IT.


HI, GUYS!

NOPE!
SO THIS IS YOUR PLACE, HUH?
I'M PRETTY CLOSE WITH HINO-SAN, BUT I BARELY KNOW THESE GUYS. WHAT A MESS.
NICE.
CAN I SEE THE BEDROOM?
HE MUST BE HEN-PECKED ALREADY.
SORRY, MISS.

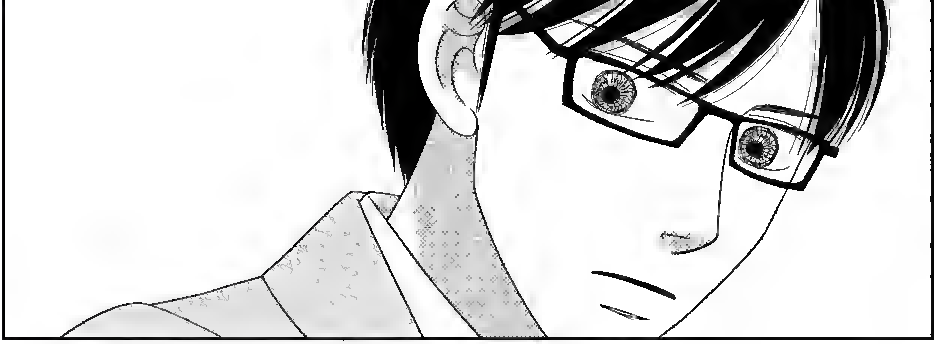
HEY, MISS.
REALLY? I'M GLAD.
OH, THIS IS DELICIOUS.
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
WOW, THIS LOOKS GREAT!
LET'S EAT!
WHAT? YOU'RE HEARTFUL BALDY-SAN?!
I WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO TRY IT OUT AND POST THE RESULTS.
Photos (129)
Photos From People Who Have Tried This Recipe
04/25/2010
I've used this one, too.
HE HE
...DID YOU FIND THIS RECIPE ON COOKPAD?
HUH? OH, YEAH.

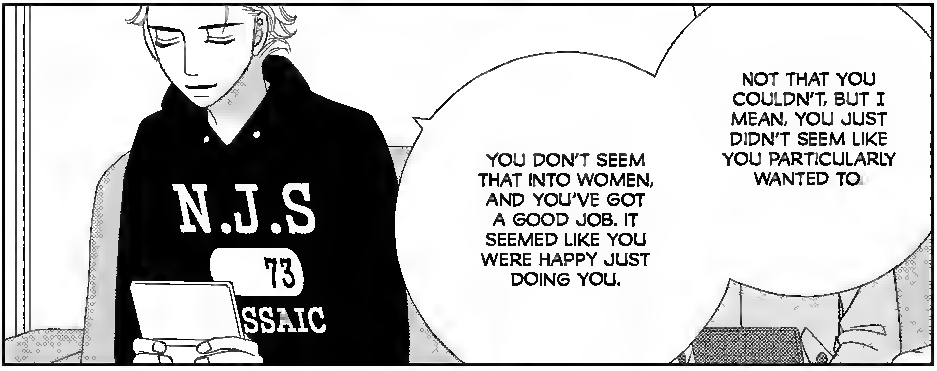

THEY GET ALONG BETTER THAN I THOUGHT THEY WOULD...
I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A SHOT MYSELF.
OH YEAH? I'LL HAVE TO TRY THAT.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU EVER TRIED PUTTING WASABI IN *TARAKO* SAUCE AND SERVING IT OVER SPAGHETTI? IT'S REALLY GOOD.
YOU JUST MIX IT IN THERE.

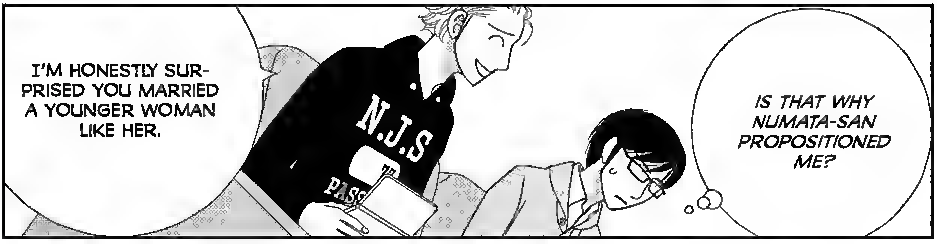
TARAKO REFERS TO THE ROE OF THE ALASKA POLLOCK, A TYPE OF COD. *TARAKO* SAUCE IS MADE USING THIS ROE, AS WELL AS SALT, PEPPER, BUTTER, AND LEMON JUICE, AND IT IS COMMONLY EATEN ON SPAGHETTI IN JAPAN.

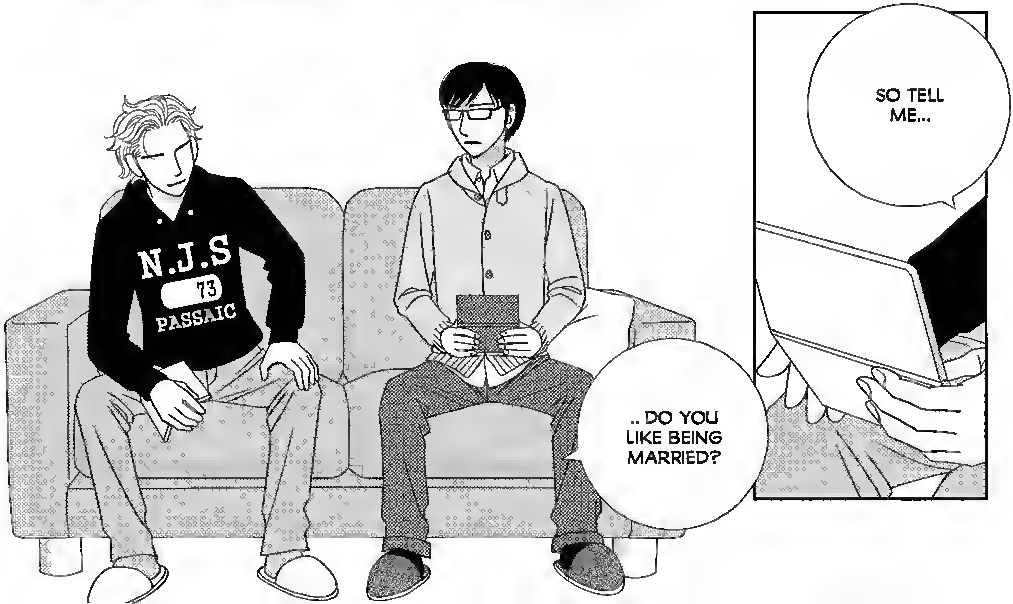
WOW, I NEVER KNEW.
AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S JUST BREAD. YOU CAN MAKE FRENCH TOAST BY MIXING IT WITH EGGS, MILK, AND SUGAR.
NOW, FOR CHOCOLATE PUDDING...

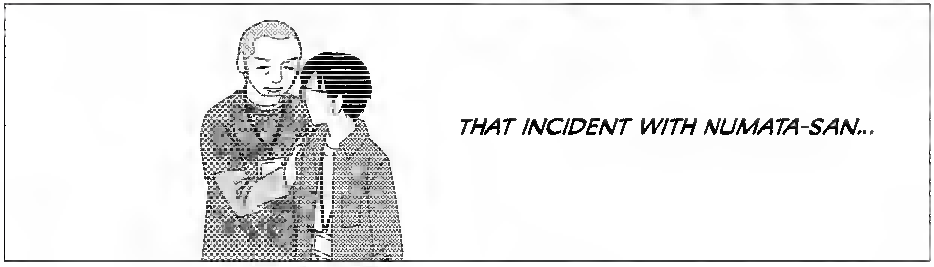
WHAT? NO, YOUR WIFE.
WAIT, NUMATA-SAN?
N.J.S
MUST BE NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO LIKES TO COOK AROUND.
IT'S STARTING TO SMELL GOOD IN HERE.
N.J.S
LIKE NUMATA-SAN SAID BEFORE, I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT YOU WOULD GET MARRIED.
OH YEAH.
SHE SEEMS SO NICE.
WELL, I AM PAYING HER OVERTIME.
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
Y'KNOW, IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR MARRIED LIFE IS HAPPIER THAN I EXPECTED.



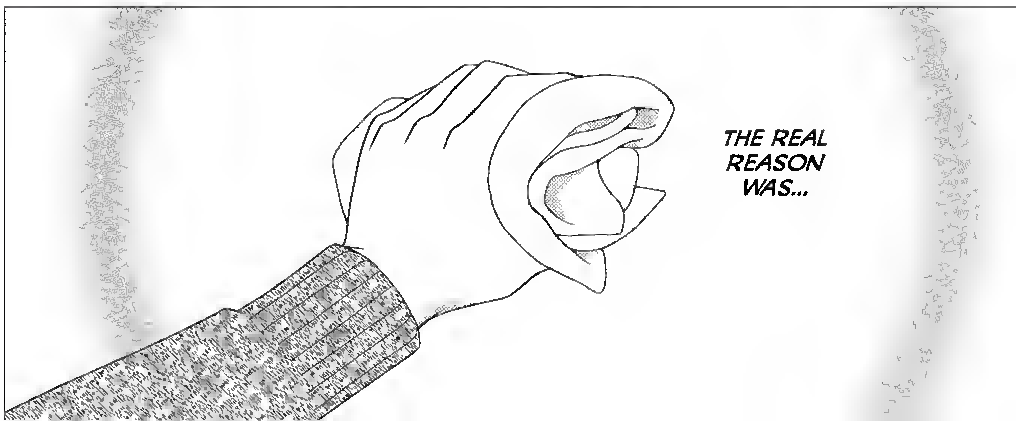

N.J.S
73
SSAIC
YOU DON'T SEEM THAT INTO WOMEN, AND YOU'VE GOT A GOOD JOB. IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE HAPPY JUST DOING YOU.
NOT THAT YOU COULDN'T, BUT I MEAN, YOU JUST DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU PARTICULARLY WANTED TO.

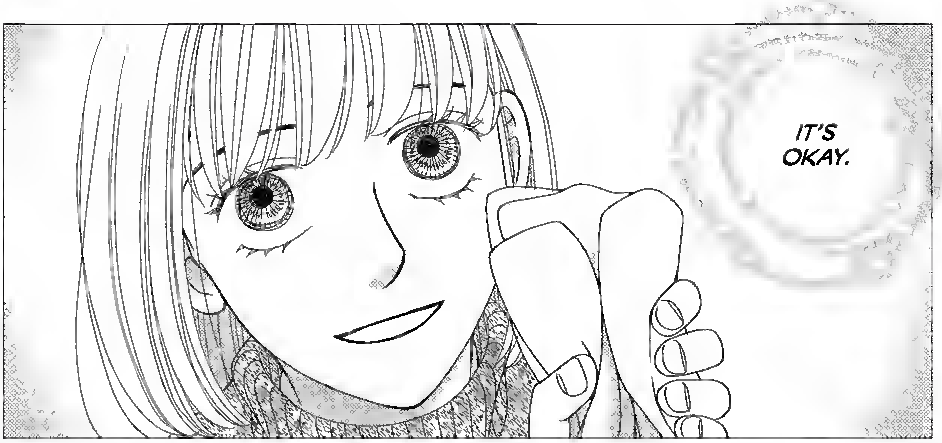

I'M HONESTLY SURPRISED YOU MARRIED A YOUNGER WOMAN LIKE HER.
N.J.S
IS THAT WHY NUMATA-SAN PROPOSITIONED ME?

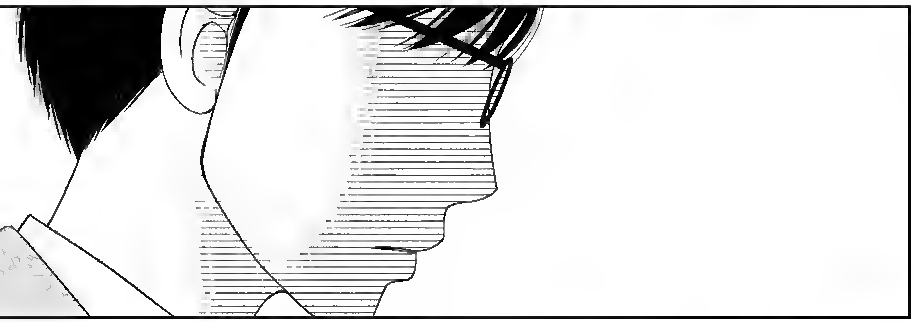

N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
.. DO YOU LIKE BEING MARRIED?
SO TELL ME...

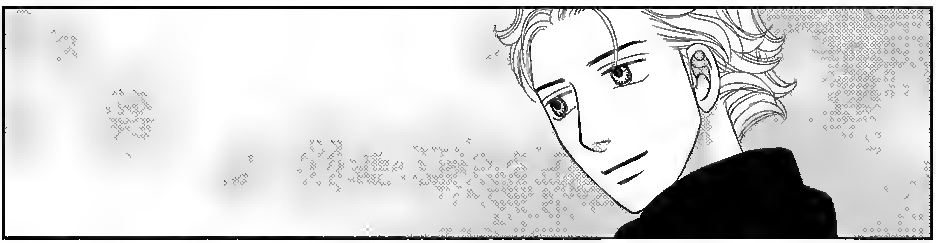


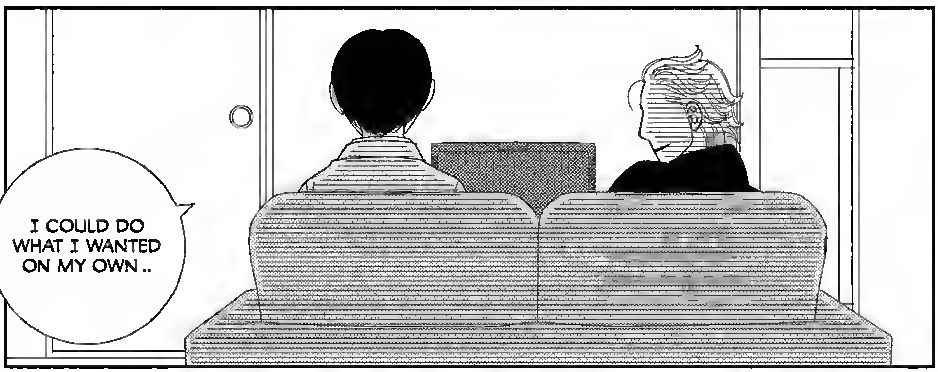
...WAS JUST ONE REASON.




IT'S OKAY.



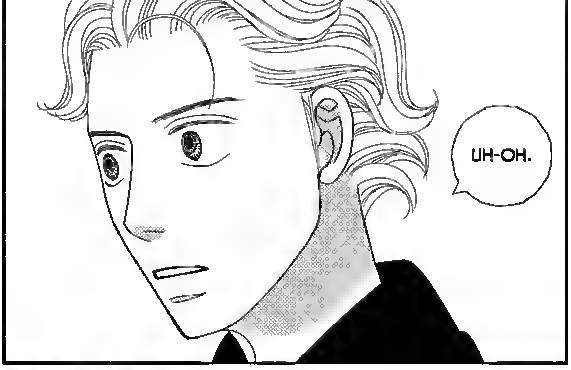


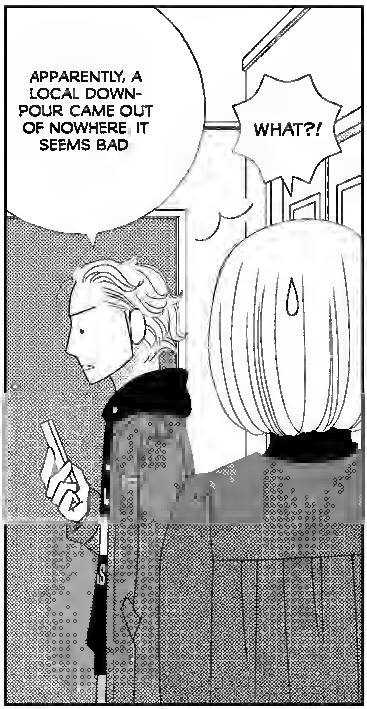

I COULD DO WHAT I WANTED ON MY OWN..

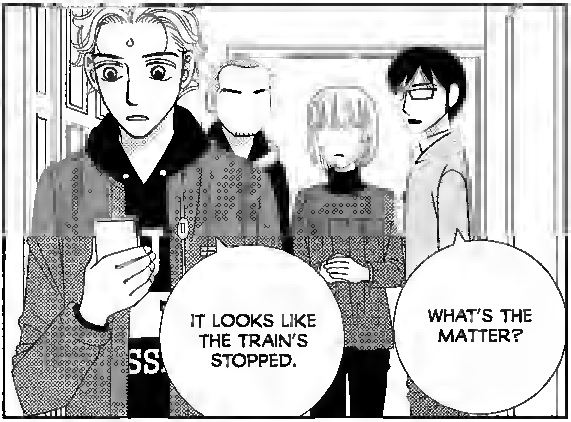
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
...BUT I GOT TO THINK-ING...
...THAT ONLY ANOTHER PERSON CAN GIVE YOU REAL PEACE OF MIND.

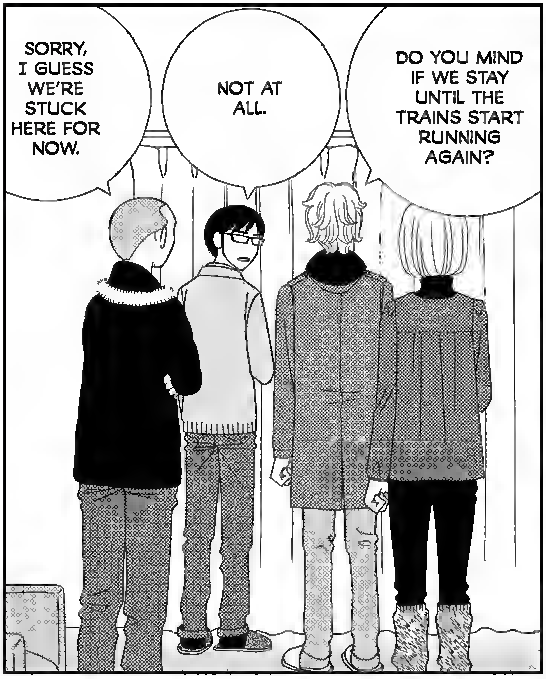
I'LL TRY THAT RAMEN RECIPE WITH THE GROUND BEEF, GARLIC CHIVES, AND SPROUTS.
THE CHOCOLATE PUDDING WAS DELICIOUS!
FOR THE SPROUTS, I RECOMMEND USING THICK ONES.

WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD BE GETTING OUT OF YOUR HAIR.


UH-OH.


APPARENTLY, A LOCAL DOWN-POUR CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. IT SEEMS BAD
WHAT?!

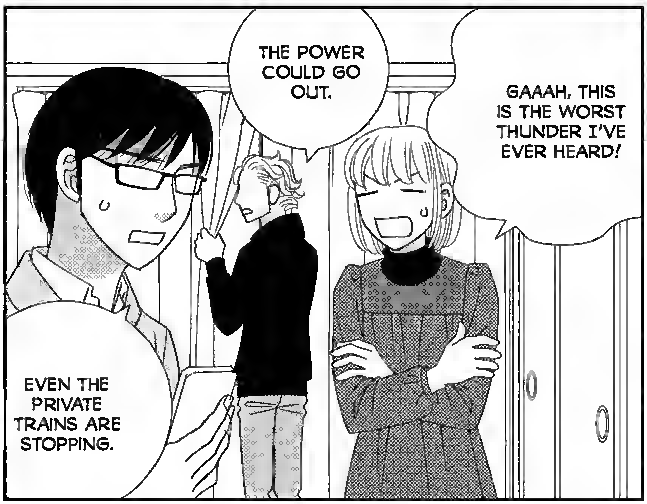

IT LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIN'S STOPPED.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

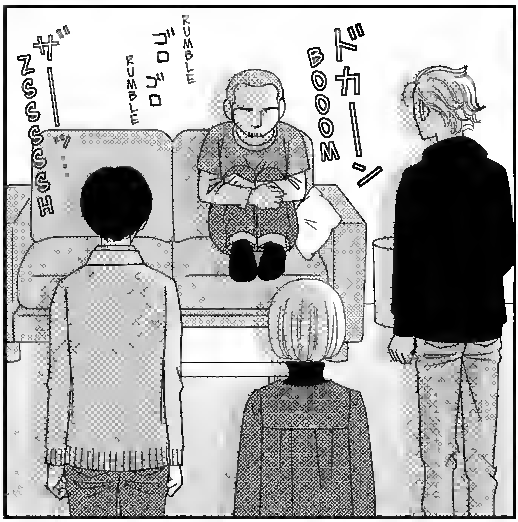

SORRY, I GUESS WE'RE STUCK HERE FOR NOW.
NOT AT ALL.
DO YOU MIND IF WE STAY UNTIL THE TRAINS START RUNNING AGAIN?

LISTEN TO THAT THUNDER, THOUGH.
IT DOESN'T LOOK ALL THAT BAD.

ヒュオオ
ズミャ——ン
BOOOOM
KACKACK
ピシャ——ン

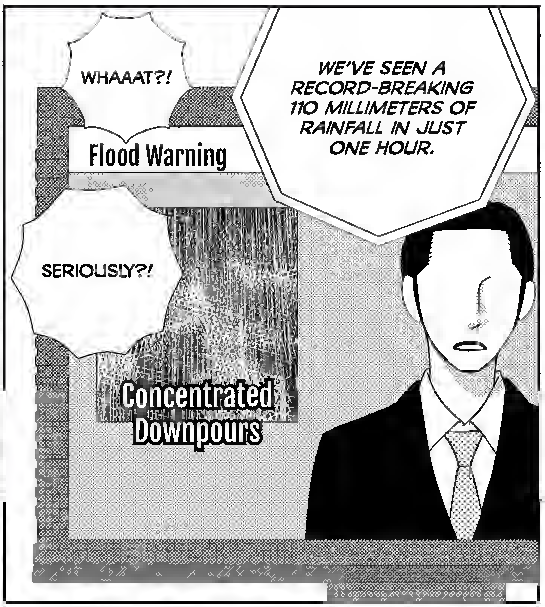
I'M...


EVEN THE PRIVATE TRAINS ARE STOPPING.
THE POWER COULD GO OUT.
GAAAH, THIS IS THE WORST THUNDER I'VE EVER HEARD!

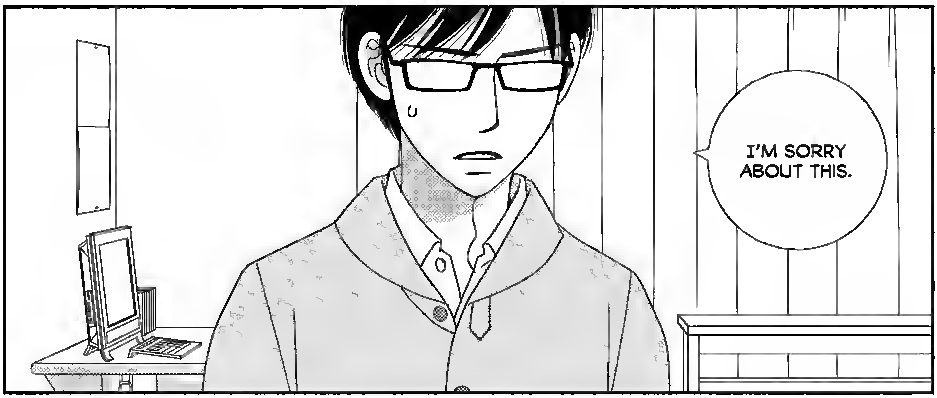

ドカーン
BOOOM
ゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ピシャ——ン
KACKACK

.. JUST GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO BE HOME ALONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
ヒュオオ

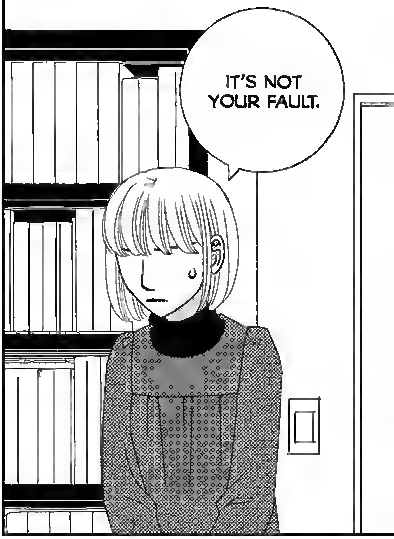
AND ME, TOO?
WHAT?!
...CAN I STAY THE NIGHT?

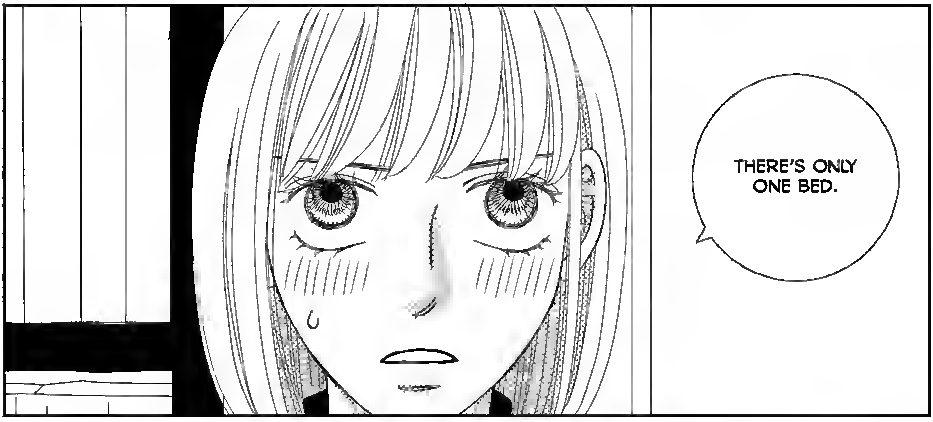

WHAAAT?!
Flood Warning
WE'VE SEEN A RECORD-BREAKING 110 MILLIMETERS OF RAINFALL IN JUST ONE HOUR.
SERIOUSLY?!
Concentrated Downpours

TSUZAKI-KUN...


I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE'LL HAVE THE TWO OF THEM SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM, AND YOU CAN SLEEP IN HERE.


IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.


THERE'S ONLY ONE BED.

ERK.

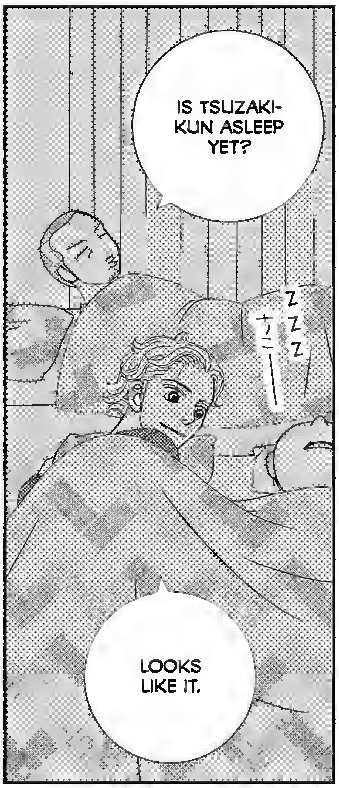
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO SHARE A BED?
AND IT'S A TWIN BED.
AND THERE ARE NO MORE FUTONS.
IF IT WERE SUMMER, I COULD SLEEP ON THE FLOOR
BUT IT'S WINTER. I'D CATCH A COLD.
ARE–

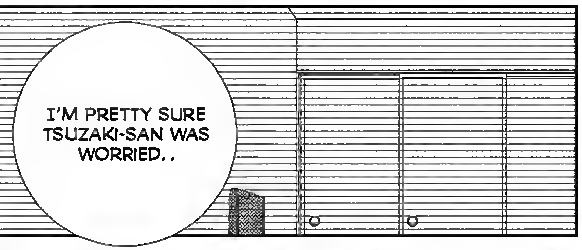
WAIT, NUMATA-SAN MIGHT BE GAY. IS IT SAFE TO LEAVE HIM ALONE WITH KAZAMI-KUN?
WILL KAZAMI-KUN BE OKAY?
はっ
GASP
TSU-TSUZAKI-SAN!
THERE'S JUST NO GOOD OPTION!
WELL, GOOD NIGHT.
ZSSSSSSSSH

WHY ARE ALL US MEN SHARING A ROOM?
ISN'T IT STRANGE?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
UMM...
IT'S EASIER IF THE TWO SKINNIER PEOPLE SHARE ONE!
I WOULDN'T MIND SHARING A FUTON.
WELL, WHY AM I ALONE OVER HERE, BUT YOU TWO ARE OVER THERE?
WE ONLY HAVE TWO FUTONS.

I MEAN, WE TALKED A LOT DURING THE DAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S LEFT TO SAY.
ANYWAY, THIS WILL BE NICE. WE CAN HAVE SOME GUY TALK.
"GUY TALK"?
DID YOUR WIFE CHASE YOU OUT OF THE BEDROOM FOR HAVING US STAY THE NIGHT?
NOT EXACTLY...
THAT WAS FAST.
SO WHEN DID YOU GUYS LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY?
LET'S GET TO BED.
すこー
Z Z Z

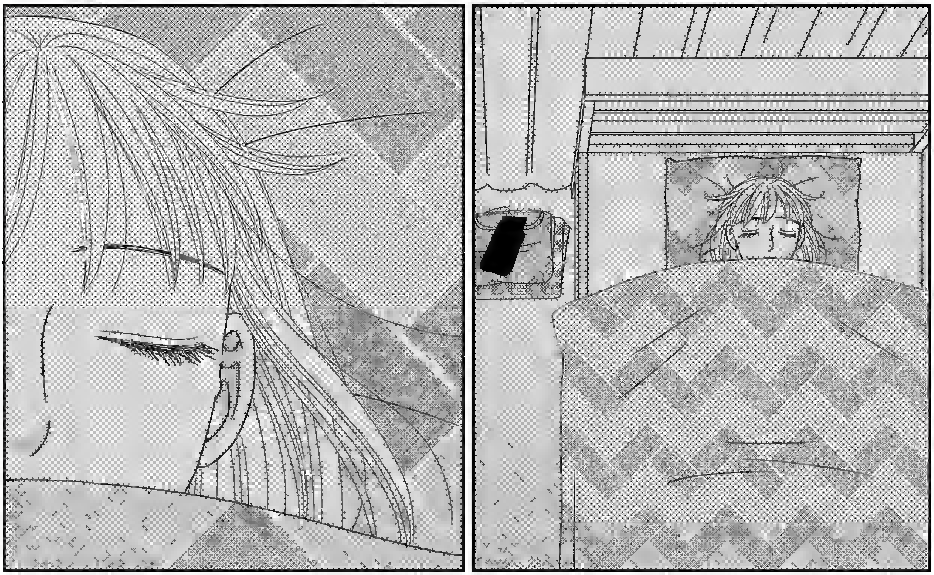
BUT WE CAN'T HELP IT IF THE TRAINS STOP.
ME, TOO.
すー
こー
I FEEL BAD FOR IMPOSING ON HIM LIKE THIS.
HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING MAKES YOU GOOD AT FAKING IT.


IS TSUZAKI-KUN ASLEEP YET?
すー
LOOKS LIKE IT.


I'M PRETTY SURE TSUZAKI-SAN WAS WORRIED..

YOU BROKE MY HEART A LONG TIME AGO, THOUGH, KAZAMI-KUN.
HAHAHAHAHA.
WHAAAT?!

...THAT YOU'D DO SOMETHING IMPURE TO ME, NUMATA-SAN.
すー
THEY KNEW...
YEAH.



THIS IS THE BED HIRAMASA-SAN USUALLY SLEEPS IN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THE SHEETS ARE CLEAN, BUT FOR SOME REASON, I STILL FEEL EMBARRASSED.

IT'S MAKING IT HARD TO SLEEP.

I'M SLEEPING ALONE...

...BUT IN A WAY...

...IT FEELS LIKE I'M SLEEPING WITH HIM.

THIS IS WEIRD.

The Full-Time Wife Escapist

Tsunami Umino

The Full-Time Wife Escapist

Tsunami Umino

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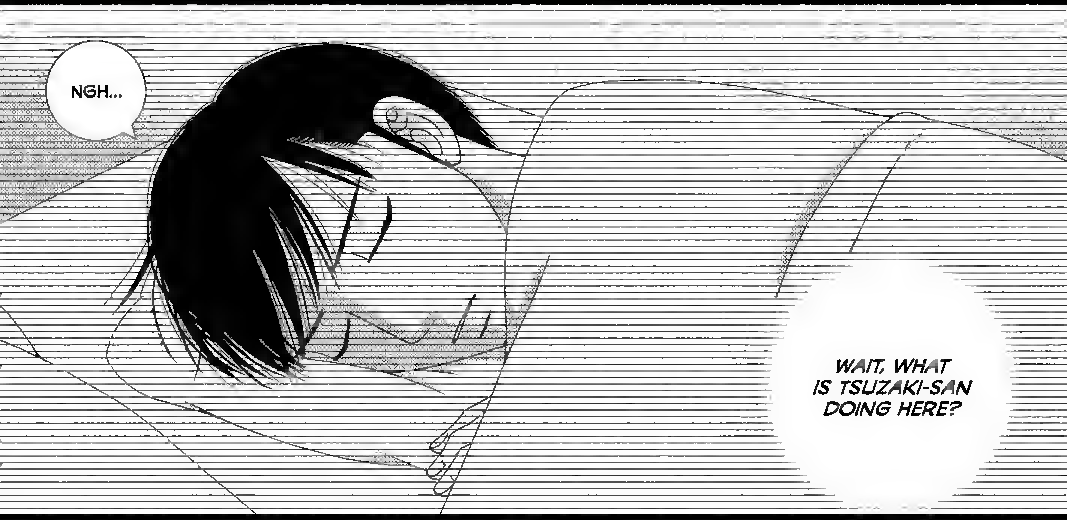
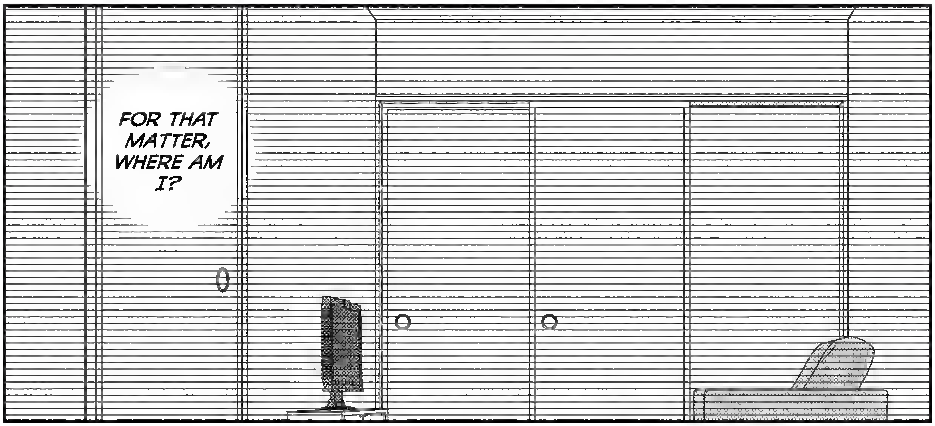
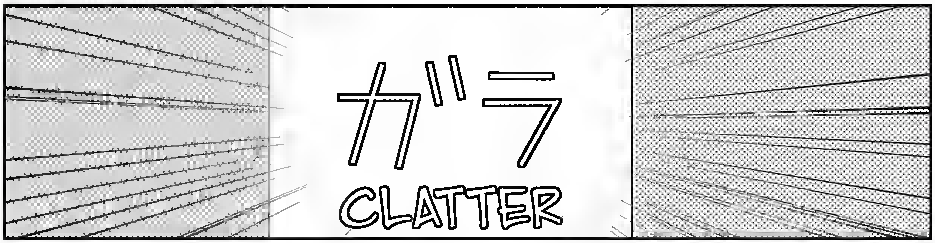
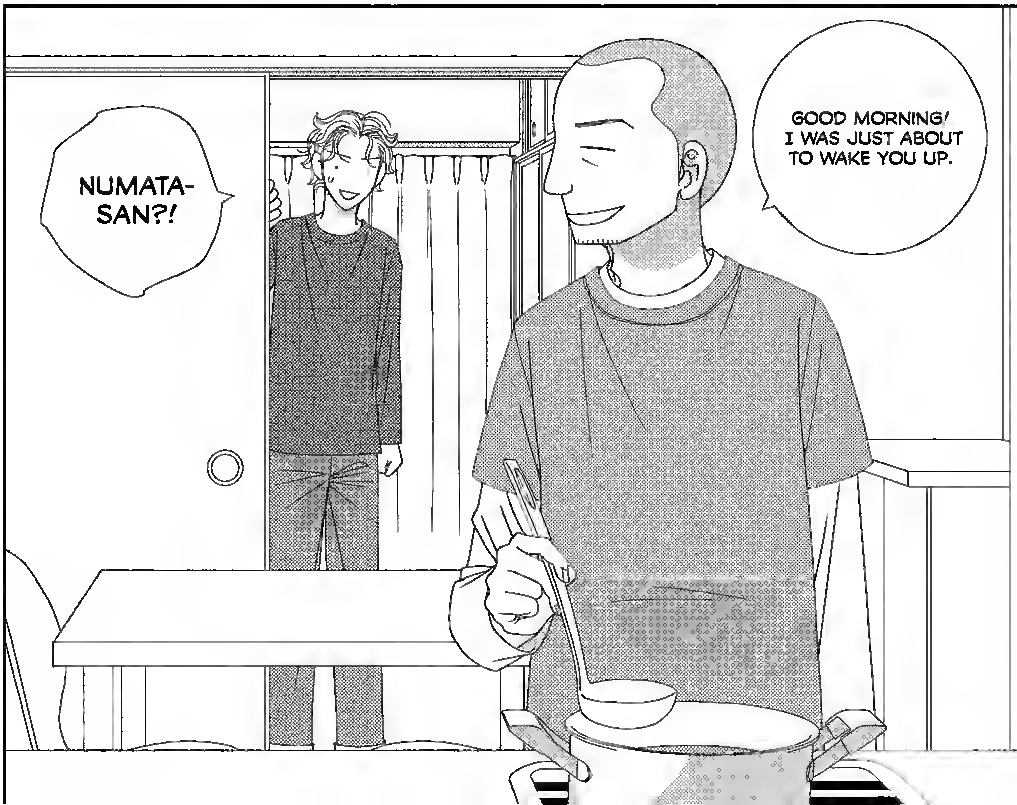
I CAN HEAR SOMEONE CHOPPING VEGETABLES.




FOR THAT MATTER, WHERE AM I?

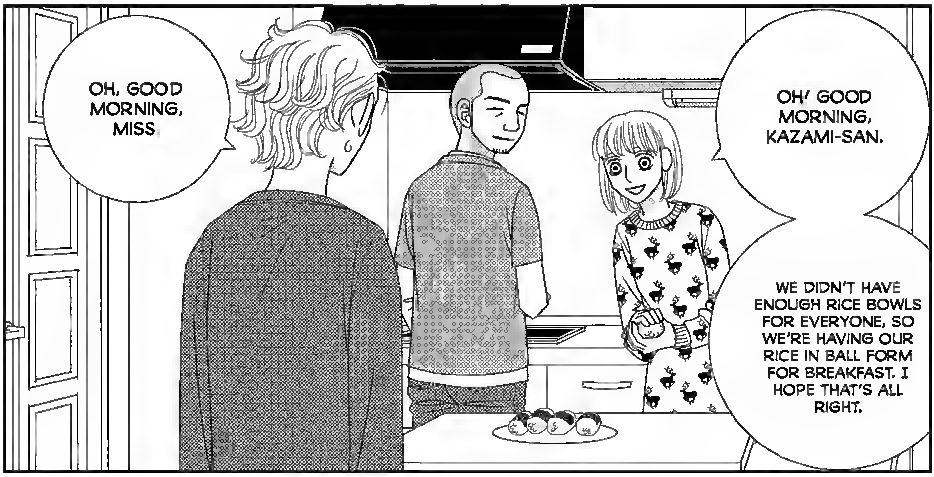

ガラ
CLATTER

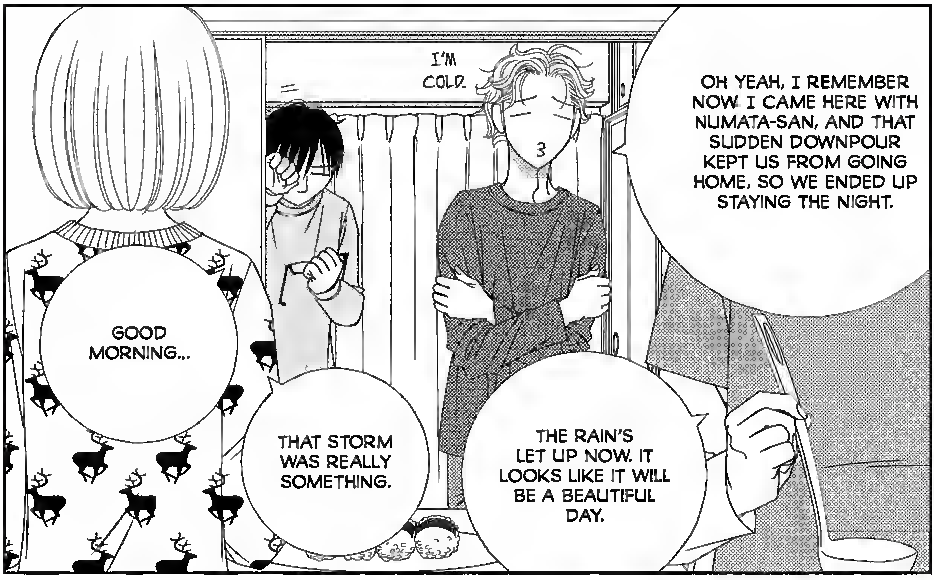

NUMATA-SAN?!
GOOD MORNING! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO WAKE YOU UP.

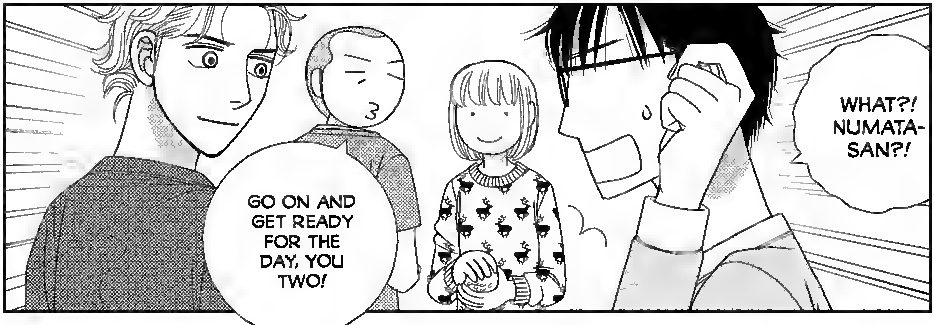
THE FULL-TIME WIFE ESCAPIST

4

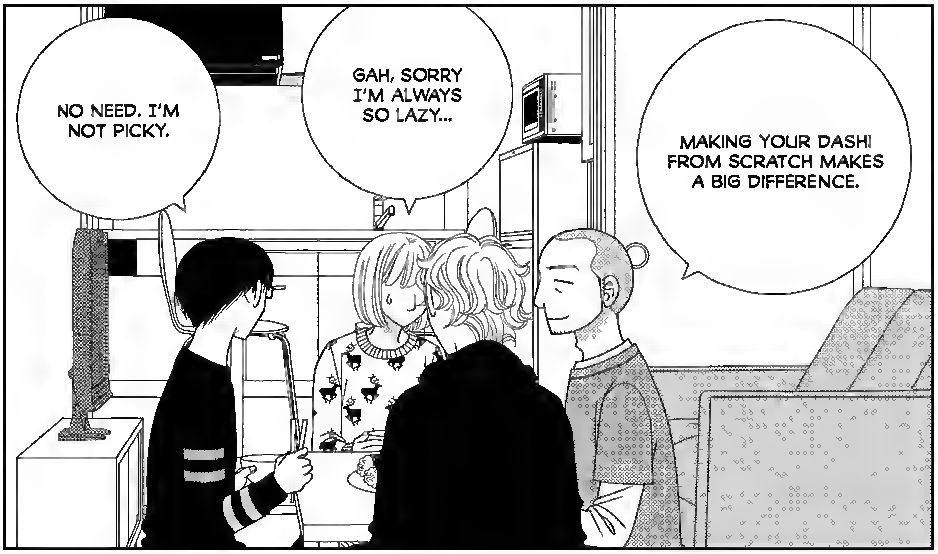
Sleeping on the Lion's Tail

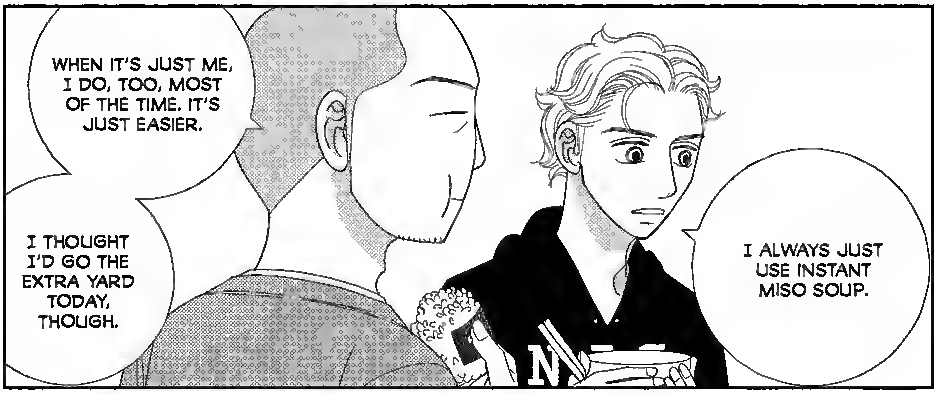

OH, GOOD MORNING, MISS.
OH! GOOD MORNING, KAZAMI-SAN.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH RICE BOWLS FOR EVERYONE, SO WE'RE HAVING OUR RICE IN BALL FORM FOR BREAKFAST. I HOPE THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

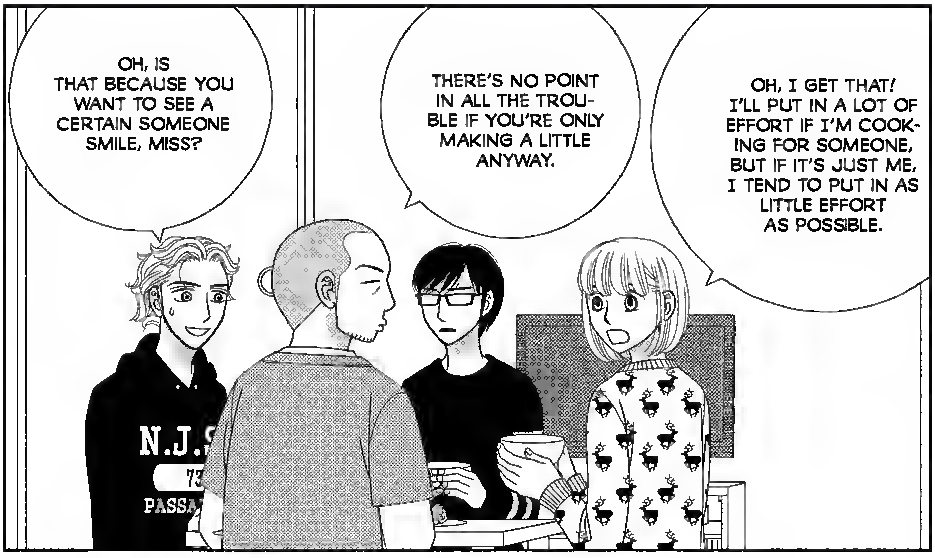

I'M COLD.
OH YEAH, I REMEMBER NOW. I CAME HERE WITH NUMATA-SAN, AND THAT SUDDEN DOWNPOUR KEPT US FROM GOING HOME, SO WE ENDED UP STAYING THE NIGHT.
GOOD MORNING...
THAT STORM WAS REALLY SOMETHING.
THE RAIN'S LET UP NOW. IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

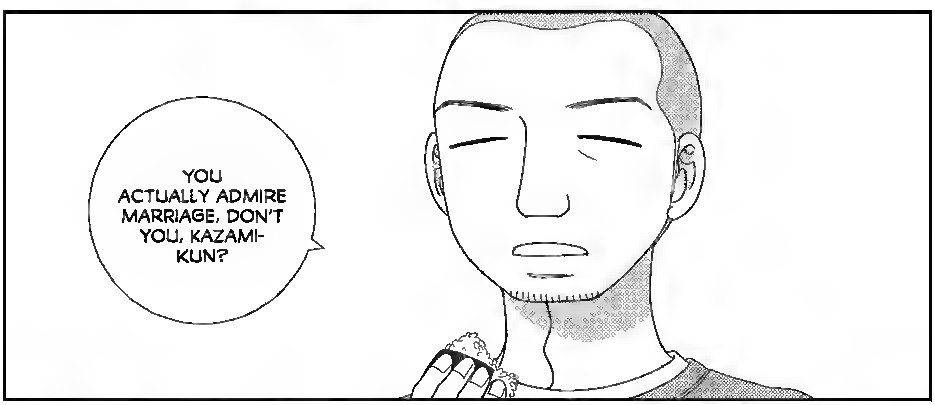

WHAT?! NUMATA-SAN?!
GO ON AND GET READY FOR THE DAY, YOU TWO!

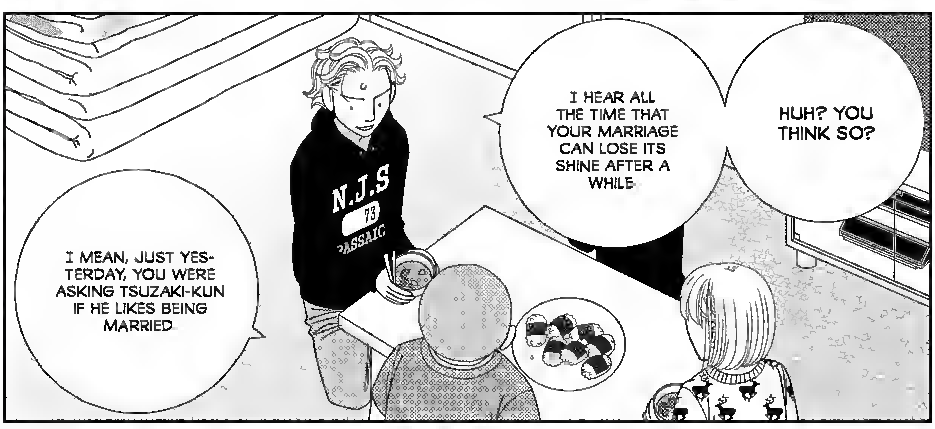
WOW, YOU MAKE A GOOD MISO SOUP, NUMATA-SAN!


NO NEED. I'M NOT PICKY.
GAH, SORRY I'M ALWAYS SO LAZY...
MAKING YOUR DASHI FROM SCRATCH MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.


WHEN IT'S JUST ME, I DO, TOO, MOST OF THE TIME. IT'S JUST EASIER.
I THOUGHT I'D GO THE EXTRA YARD TODAY, THOUGH.
I ALWAYS JUST USE INSTANT MISO SOUP.

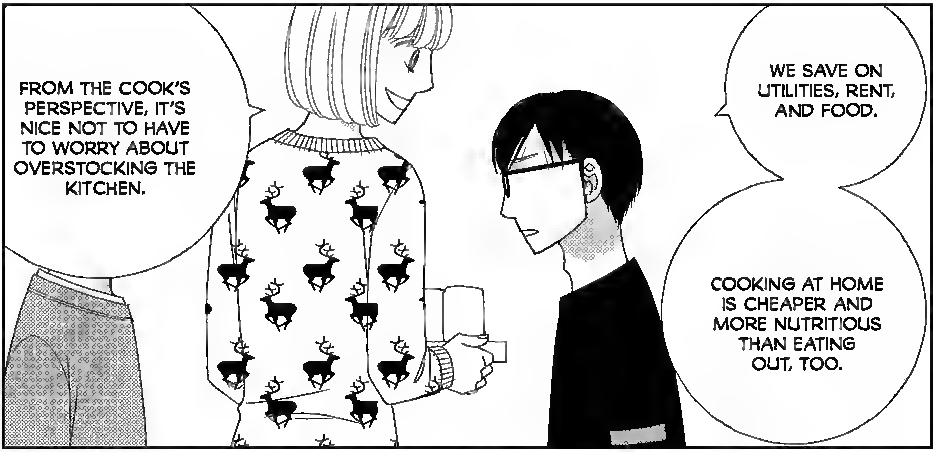

OH, IS THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SEE A CERTAIN SOMEONE SMILE, MISS?
THERE'S NO POINT IN ALL THE TROUBLE IF YOU'RE ONLY MAKING A LITTLE ANYWAY.
OH, I GET THAT! I'LL PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT IF I'M COOKING FOR SOMEONE, BUT IF IT'S JUST ME, I TEND TO PUT IN AS LITTLE EFFORT AS POSSIBLE.

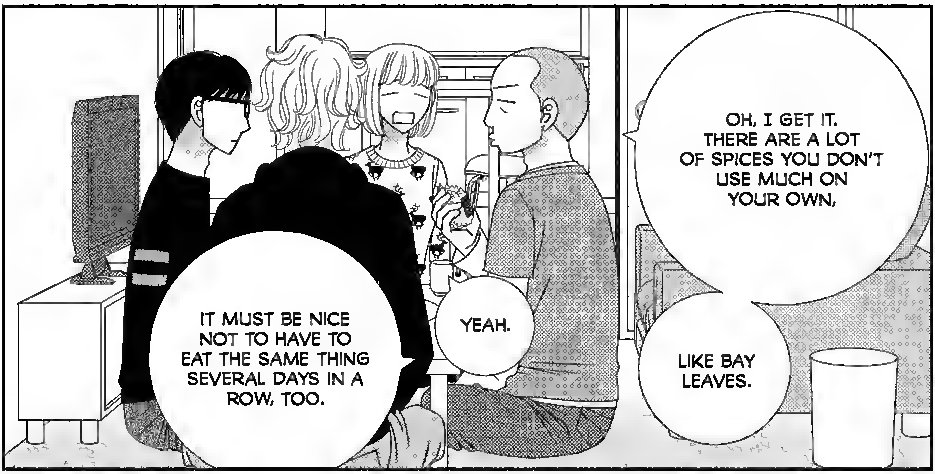

YOU ACTUALLY ADMIRE MARRIAGE, DON'T YOU, KAZAMI-KUN?

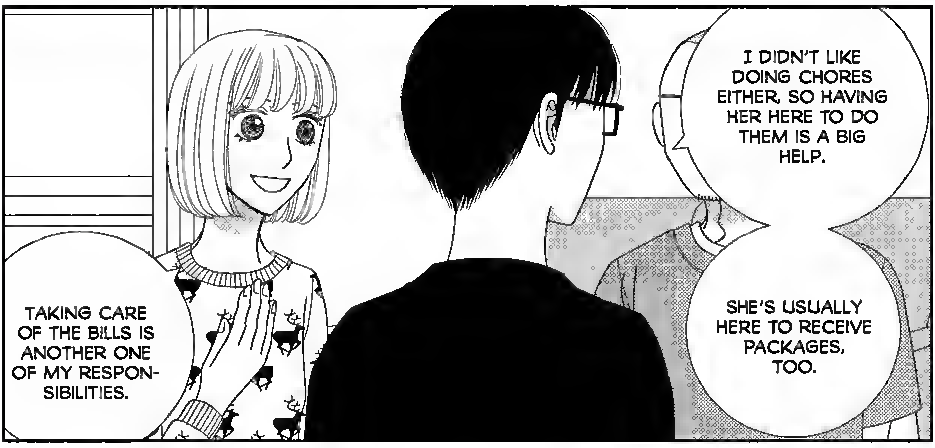

I MEAN, JUST YESTERDAY, YOU WERE ASKING TSUZAKI-KUN IF HE LIKES BEING MARRIED.
I HEAR ALL THE TIME THAT YOUR MARRIAGE CAN LOSE ITS SHINE AFTER A WHILE.
HUH? YOU THINK SO?

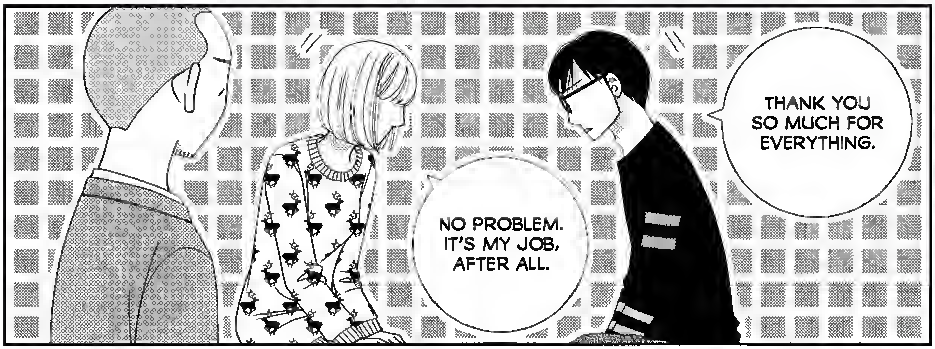
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT ME
IN FACT, I BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND NEAR THE END OF LAST YEAR,
BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T STOP GOING ON ABOUT GETTING MARRIED.
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
WELL...
YOU'RE NOT A BOTHER.
YOU, TOO, TSUZAKI-SAN?
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
SURE!
WOULD YOU MAKE US SOME TEA, MISS? I'D LIKE TO SIT AND HEAR THIS STORY.
COME ON, WE SHOULD BE GOING SOON. WE'RE BOTHERING THEM.

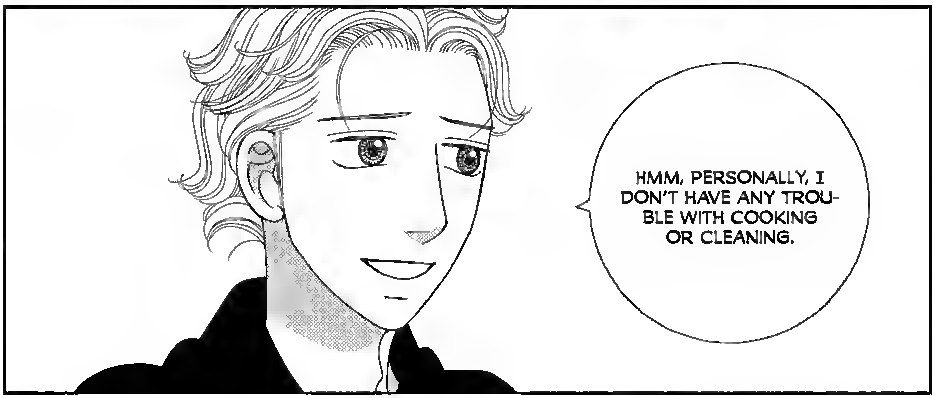
HONESTLY, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT GREAT ABOUT BEING MARRIED.
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
SHALL I START GETTING SOME RICE READY FOR LUNCH?
NO THANKS, IT'S NOT THAT LONG OF A STORY.
WELL, THERE ARE THE TAX DEDUCTIONS, AND LIVING TOGETHER IS CHEAPER THAN LIVING ALONE.

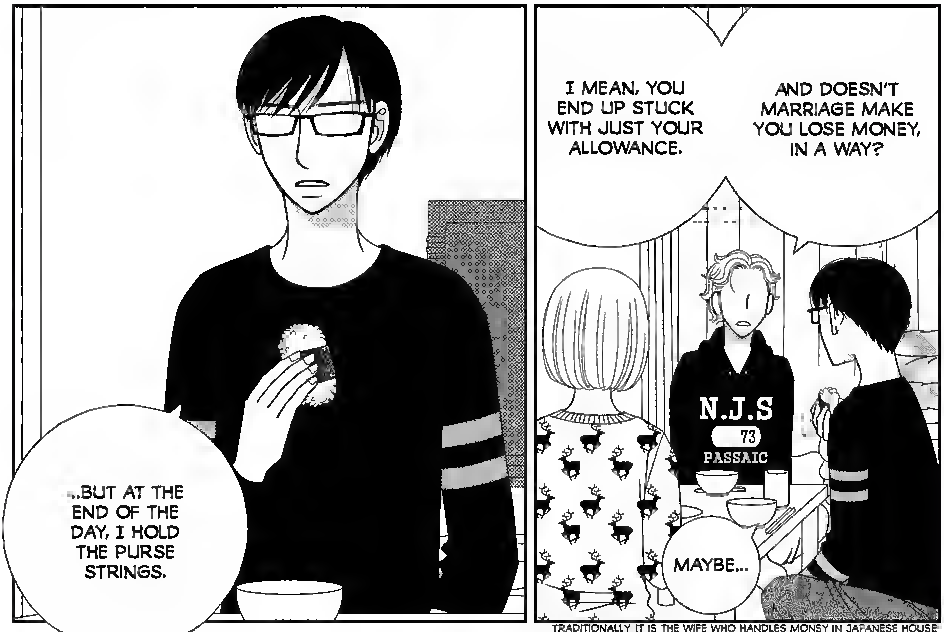

FROM THE COOK'S PERSPECTIVE, IT'S NICE NOT TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OVERSTOCKING THE KITCHEN.
WE SAVE ON UTILITIES, RENT, AND FOOD.
COOKING AT HOME IS CHEAPER AND MORE NUTRITIOUS THAN EATING OUT, TOO.


IT MUST BE NICE NOT TO HAVE TO EAT THE SAME THING SEVERAL DAYS IN A ROW, TOO.
YEAH.
OH, I GET IT. THERE ARE A LOT OF SPICES YOU DON'T USE MUCH ON YOUR OWN,
LIKE BAY LEAVES.


TAKING CARE OF THE BILLS IS ANOTHER ONE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES.
I DIDN'T LIKE DOING CHORES EITHER, SO HAVING HER HERE TO DO THEM IS A BIG HELP.
SHE'S USUALLY HERE TO RECEIVE PACKAGES, TOO.

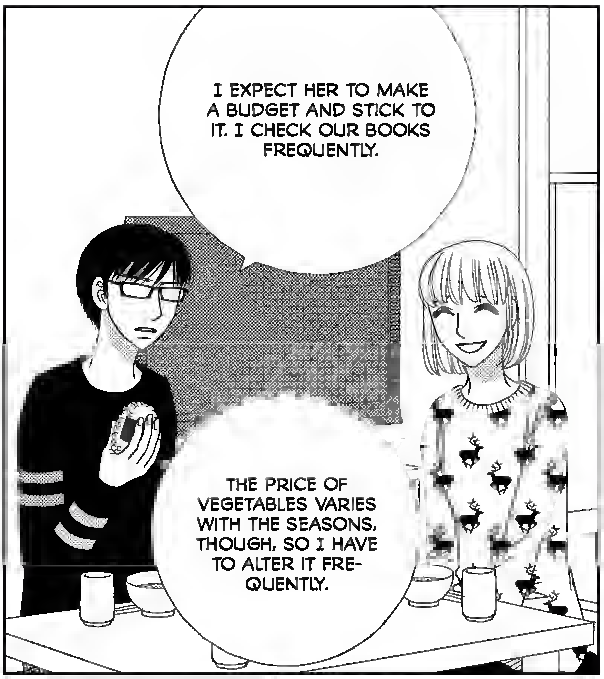





I MEAN, YOU END UP STUCK WITH JUST YOUR ALLOWANCE.
AND DOESN'T MARRIAGE MAKE YOU LOSE MONEY, IN A WAY?
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC
MAYBE...
...BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, I HOLD THE PURSE STRINGS.

TRADITIONALLY IT IS THE WIFE WHO HANDLES MONEY IN JAPANESE HOUSEHOLDS AND SHE GIVES AN ALLOWANCE TO HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN

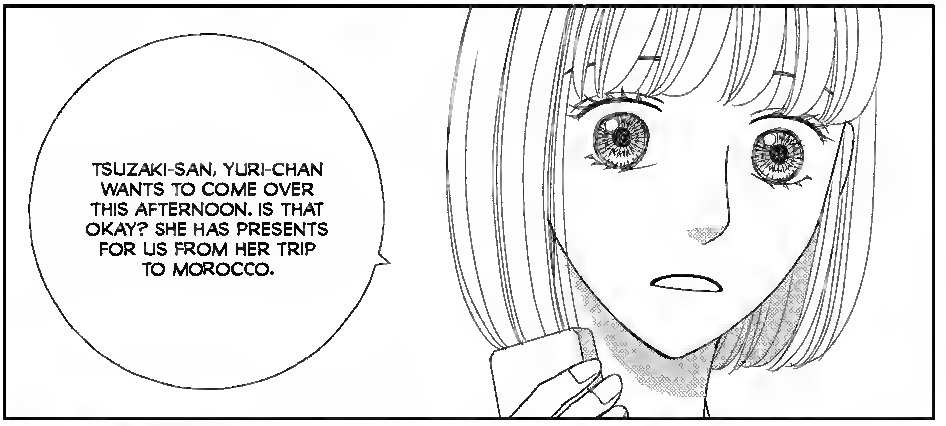
BUT ISN'T IT A PAIN TO HAVE SOMEONE ALWAYS RELYING ON YOU?

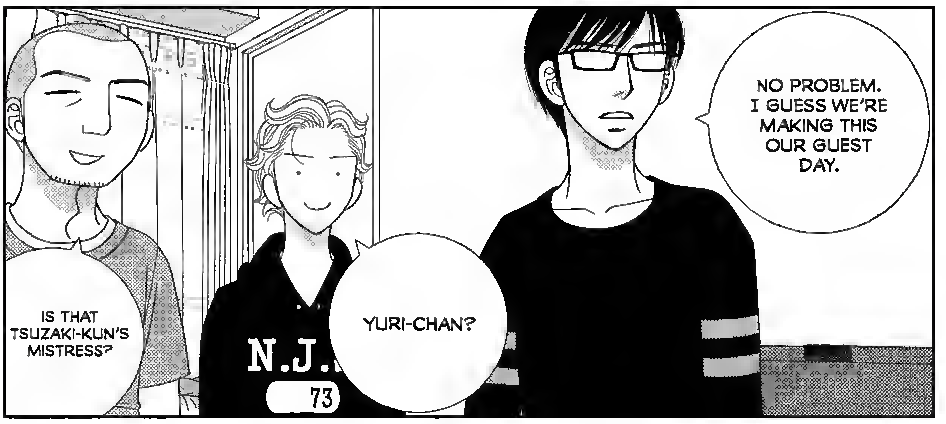

I EXPECT HER TO MAKE A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT. I CHECK OUR BOOKS FREQUENTLY.
THE PRICE OF VEGETABLES VARIES WITH THE SEASONS, THOUGH, SO I HAVE TO ALTER IT FREQUENTLY.

I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER NEXT YEAR. IT WILL BE EASIER ONCE I HAVE THE DATA ON ALL OUR MONTHLY EXPENDITURES FROM THIS YEAR.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORT.
NOT AT ALL.
WHY DO YOU TWO ALWAYS TALK LIKE YOU'RE DOING BUSINESS?

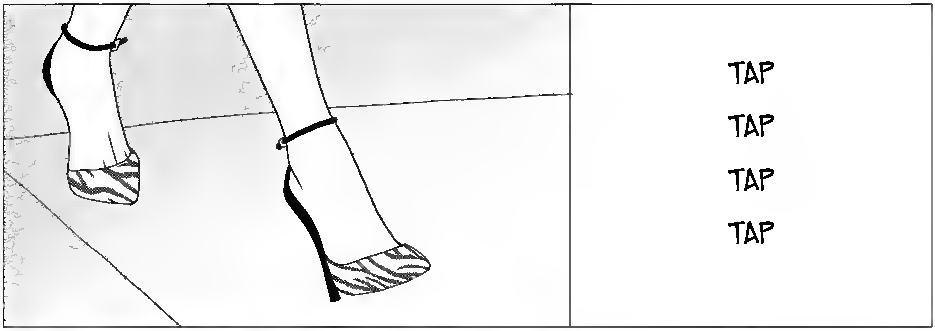
MIKURI-SAN MAY ASK MY ADVICE ON THINGS, BUT SHE HARDLY RELIES ON ME AT ALL.
NO.
SORRY, I GUESS I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF YOUR WIFE.
OH! EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
SEE WHAT I MEAN? YOU TWO ARE SO FORMAL WITH EACH OTHER.
AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, I AM THE DECISION MAKER AT THE END OF THE DAY.
WELL, YOU ARE A VERY RELIABLE SOURCE OF ADVICE.

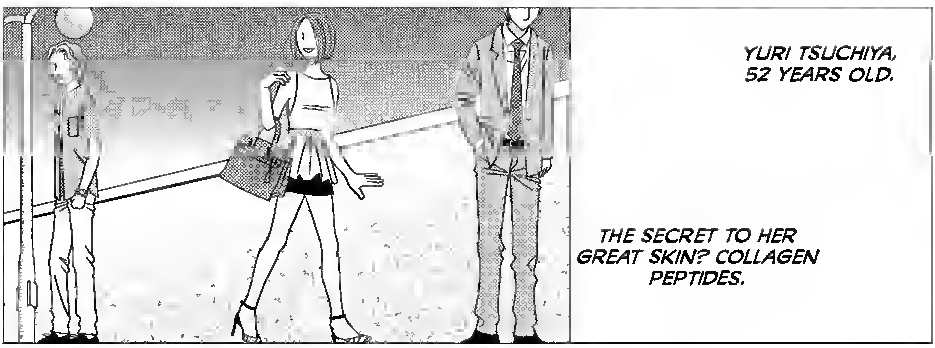
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR AN APOLOGY.
SORRY.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE NEWLYWEDS TO ME.
HELLO?

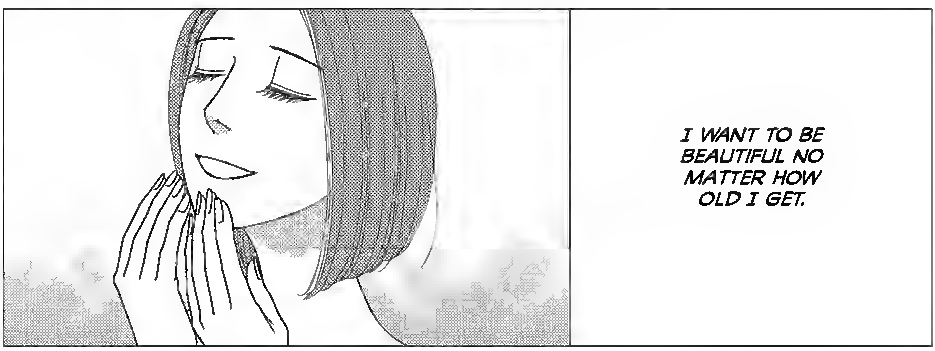

TSUZAKI-SAN, YURI-CHAN WANTS TO COME OVER THIS AFTERNOON. IS THAT OKAY? SHE HAS PRESENTS FOR US FROM HER TRIP TO MOROCCO.

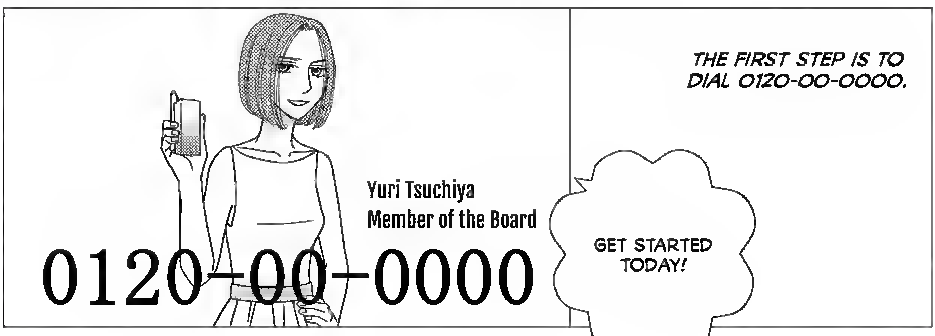

IS THAT TSUZAKI-KUN'S MISTRESS?
YURI-CHAN?
NO PROBLEM. I GUESS WE'RE MAKING THIS OUR GUEST DAY.
N.J.
73

YEAH. SHE WORKS FOR A MAKEUP COMPANY AND IS ALWAYS VERY BUSY. SHE'S STYLISH, TOO.
YOUR AUNT WAS IN MOROCCO?
SHE'S VERY PRETTY.
SHE'S MY MOTHER'S OLDER SISTER. SHE DOESN'T HAVE A HUSBAND OR CHILDREN, SO SHE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE HER LITTLE GIRL.
I GET YA. LIKE THE KIND WHERE YOU THINK THEY'RE YOUNG WHEN YOU SEE THEM FROM BEHIND, BUT THEN YOU SEE THEIR FACE AND IT'S LIKE, "WHOA."
I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF OLDER WOMEN WHO TRY TO LOOK YOUNG BY WEARING MINISKIRTS AND DYING OR CURLING THEIR HAIR.
SO SHE'S A COUGAR, HUH?
I AM NOT A FAN OF THEM.
.J.S
73
PASSAIC

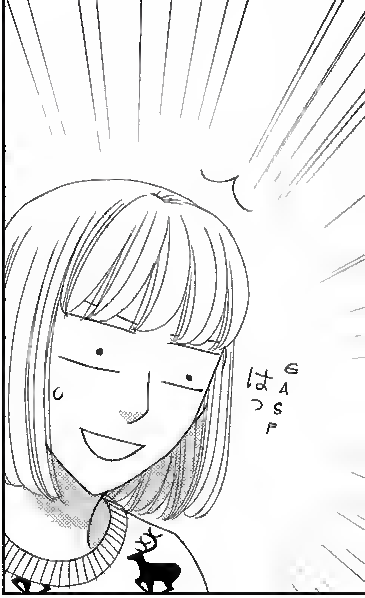

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

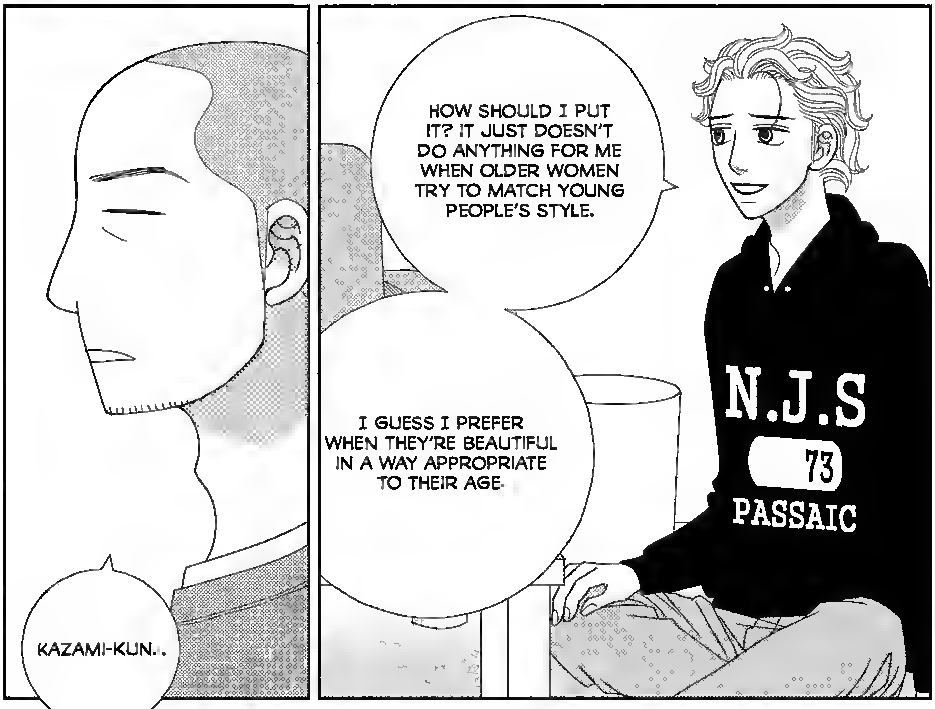

YURI TSUCHIYA, 52 YEARS OLD.
THE SECRET TO HER GREAT SKIN? COLLAGEN PEPTIDES.


I WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL NO MATTER HOW OLD I GET.

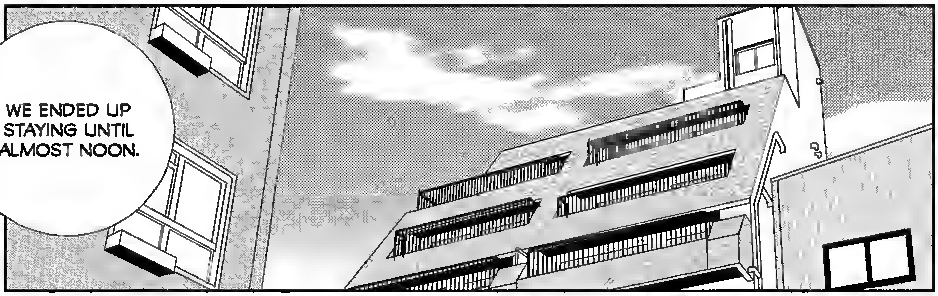

THE FIRST STEP IS TO DIAL 0120-00-0000.
Yuri Tsuchiya
Member of the Board
0120-00-0000
GET STARTED TODAY!

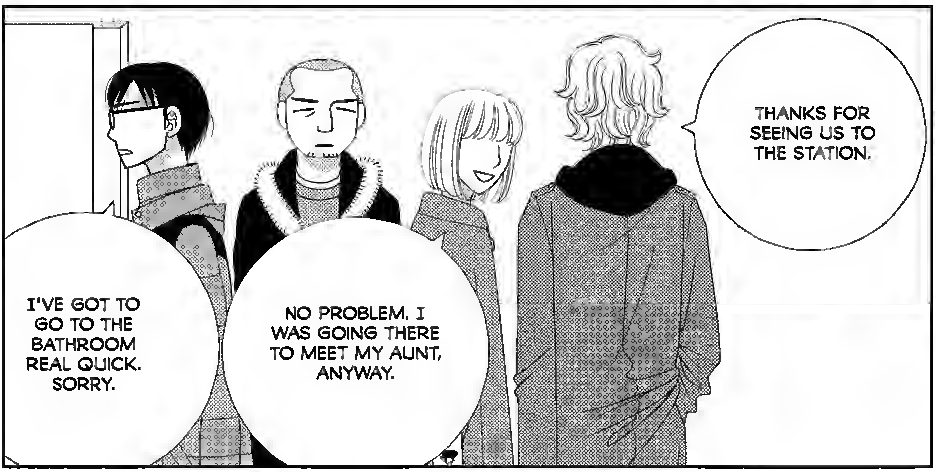
HEY, YURI-CHAN IS YOUNG, AND SHE DOESN'T TRY TO FOOL PEOPLE OR ANYTHING.
I SEE. I GUESS THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUST LOOKING YOUNG AND TRYING TOO HARD.
N.J.S
73

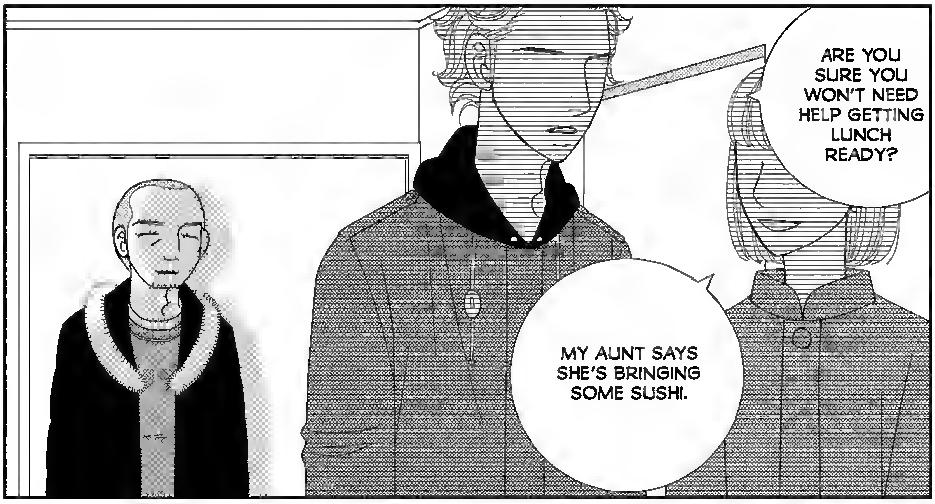


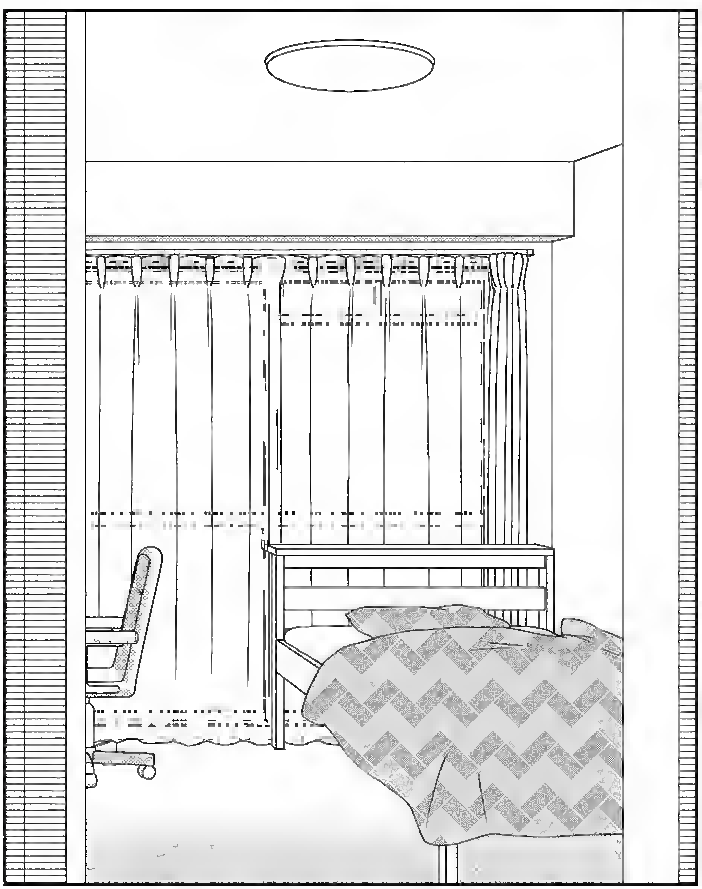

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? IT JUST DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME WHEN OLDER WOMEN TRY TO MATCH YOUNG PEOPLE'S STYLE.
I GUESS I PREFER WHEN THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL IN A WAY APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE.
KAZAMI-KUN..
N.J.S
73
PASSAIC

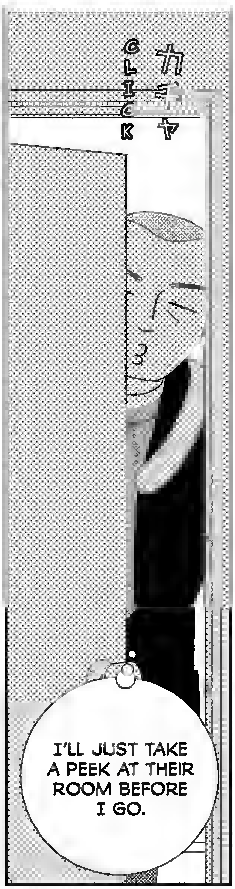
WHAT?! HEY, GIVE ME A BREAK...
...YOU SURE CAN BE A HASSLE.
N.J.S
73

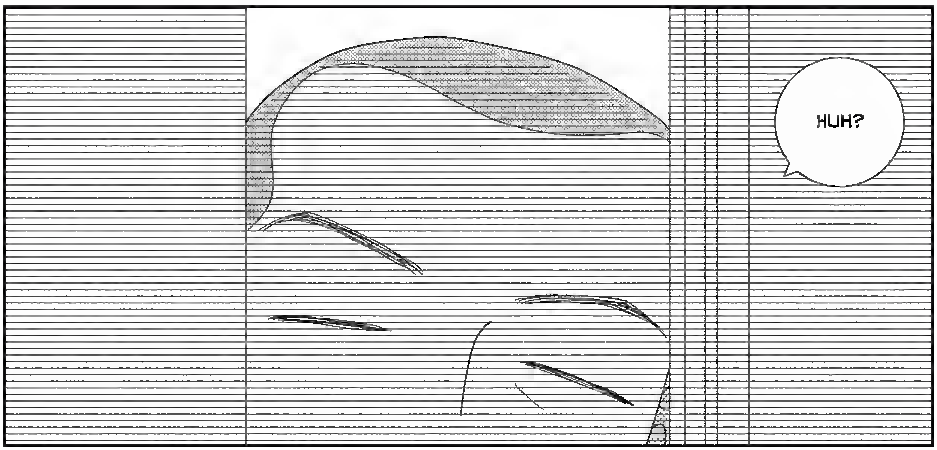

WE ENDED UP STAYING UNTIL ALMOST NOON.


THANKS FOR SEEING US TO THE STATION.
I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BATHROOM REAL QUICK. SORRY.
NO PROBLEM. I WAS GOING THERE TO MEET MY AUNT, ANYWAY.

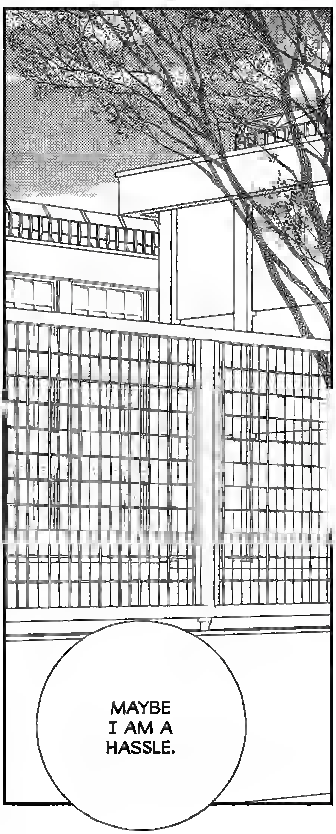

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T NEED HELP GETTING LUNCH READY?
MY AUNT SAYS SHE'S BRINGING SOME SUSHI.



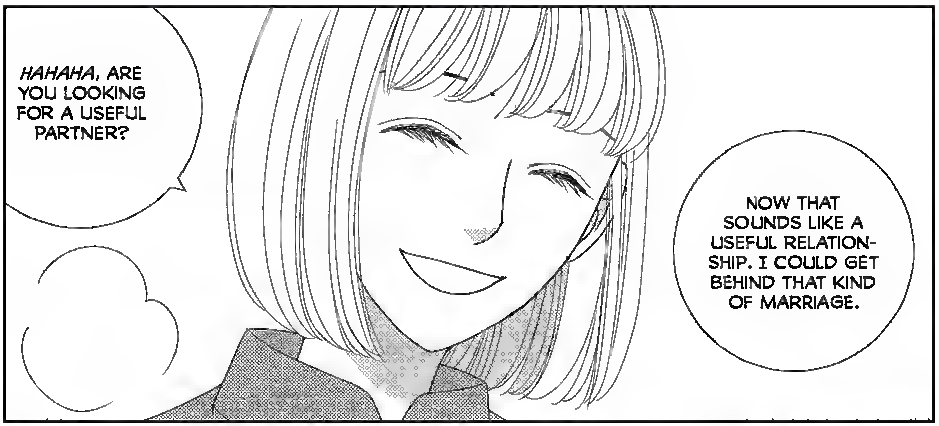

CLICK
I'LL JUST TAKE A PEEK AT THEIR ROOM BEFORE I GO.

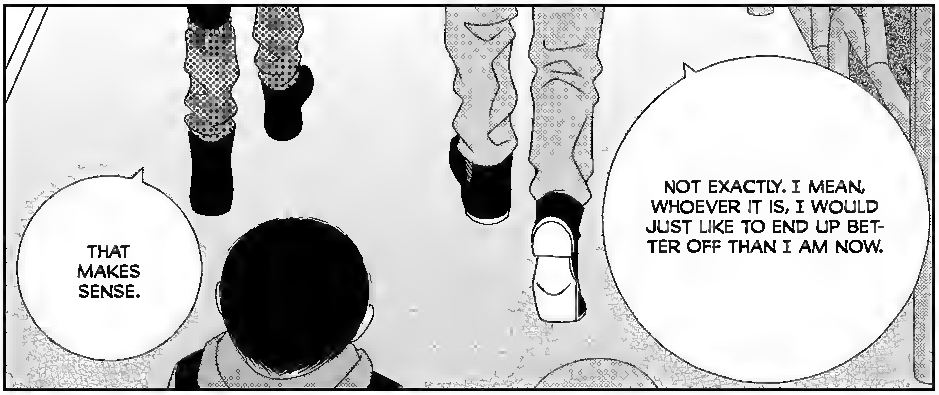

HUH?

HAHAHA, YOU SOUND WORRIED.
WELL, I LIKE TO AVOID HASSLES, Y'KNOW?

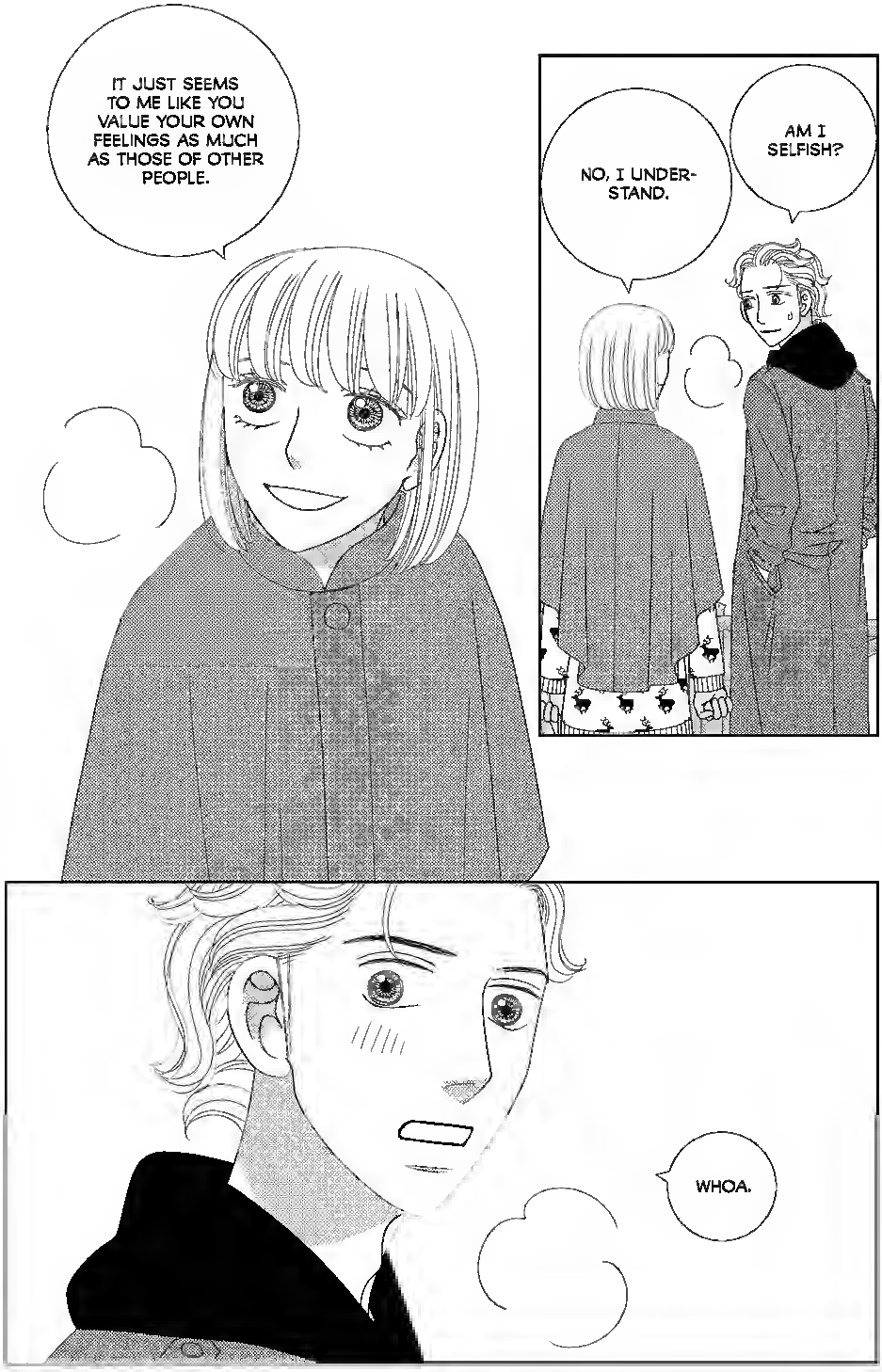

MAYBE I AM A HASSLE.

WHAT YOU GUYS HAVE SEEMS NICE. YOU EACH HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY. IT SEEMS A LITTLE STIFF, BUT I GUESS YOU BOTH JUST HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER.
WE MIGHT GET SOFT IF THE ONLY THING HOLDING US TOGETHER WAS LOVE, BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS HELD TOGETHER BY GRATITUDE (GRATUITIES).
SINCE WE'RE ACTUALLY BOSS AND EMPLOYEE.
SO THERE'S NO LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE
UM, THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANS.

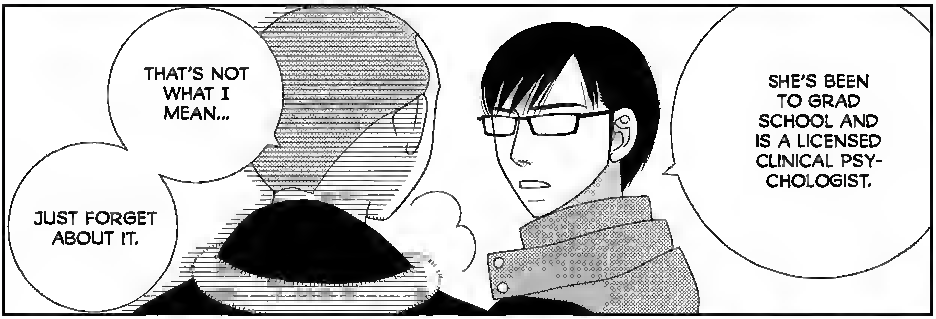

HAHAHA, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A USEFUL PARTNER?
NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A USEFUL RELATIONSHIP. I COULD GET BEHIND THAT KIND OF MARRIAGE.


THAT MAKES SENSE.
NOT EXACTLY. I MEAN, WHOEVER IT IS, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO END UP BETTER OFF THAN I AM NOW.

HMM. I THINK HAVING MY TIME TAKEN UP BY SOMEONE ELSE SEEMS WORSE TO ME. FOR NOW, ANYWAY.
DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU WANT TO EASE YOUR LONELINESS BY BEING WITH SOMEONE? THAT'S WHY A LOT OF PEOPLE GET MARRIED.

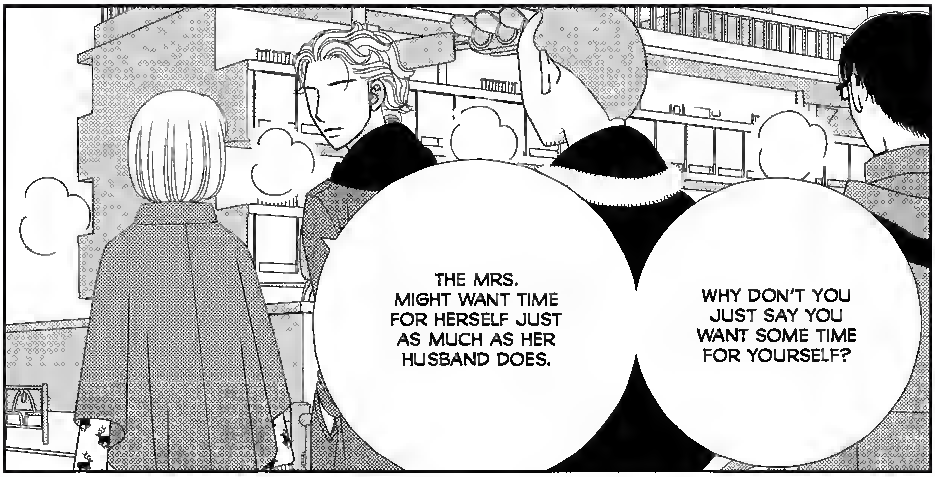

IT JUST SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU VALUE YOUR OWN FEELINGS AS MUCH AS THOSE OF OTHER PEOPLE.
AM I SELFISH?
NO, I UNDER-STAND.
WHOA.

WHY SHOULD I BE?
LISTEN TO THAT
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
AREN'T YOU JEALOUS?


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.
SHE'S BEEN TO GRAD SCHOOL AND IS A LICENSED CLINICAL PSY-CHOLOGIST.

HUH?

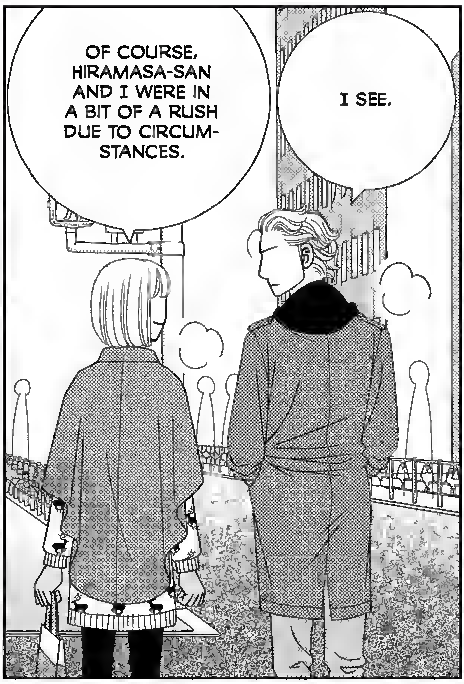
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE THAT LAST FOR-EVER, IT STARTS TO SEEM LIKE A PAIN.
WHEN I'M WITH A GIRLFRIEND, I LIKE FOR BOTH OF US TO HAVE A NICE TIME TOGETHER.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE UPFRONT ABOUT YOUR NEEDS?

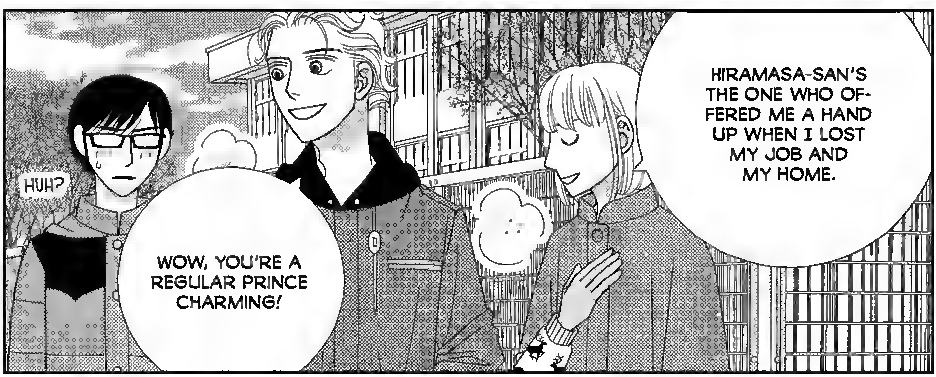

THE MRS. MIGHT WANT TIME FOR HERSELF JUST AS MUCH AS HER HUSBAND DOES.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WANT SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF?

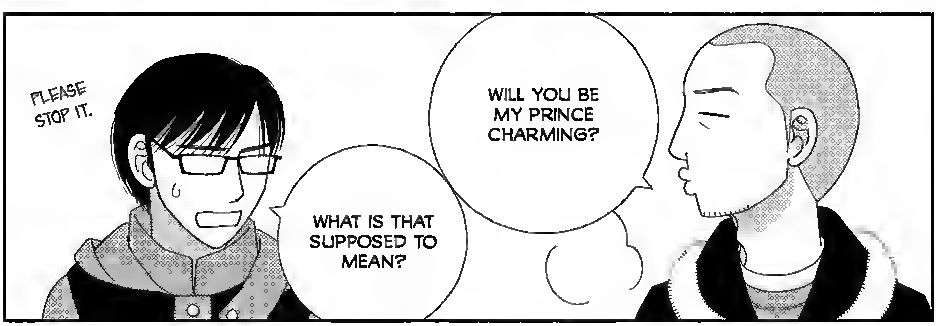
HUH?
IF YOU TRY TALKING ABOUT IT AND IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT...
..WE CAN BREAK UP.

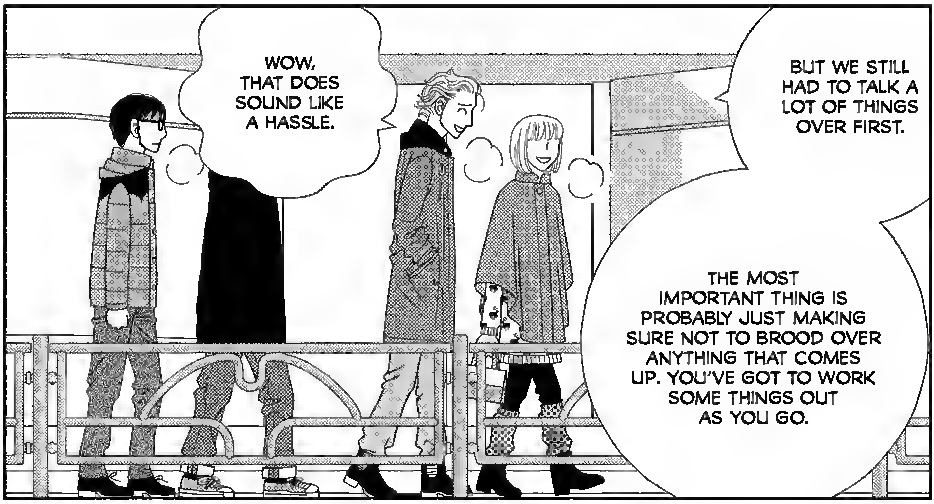
PEOPLE ARE CHANGING ALL THE TIME,
WELL, I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST SETTING SOME TIME ASIDE, UNLESS YOU JUST DON'T LIKE HER.
SO IN A COUPLE YEARS, YOU MIGHT END UP MORE COMPATIBLE THAN YOU EXPECT.

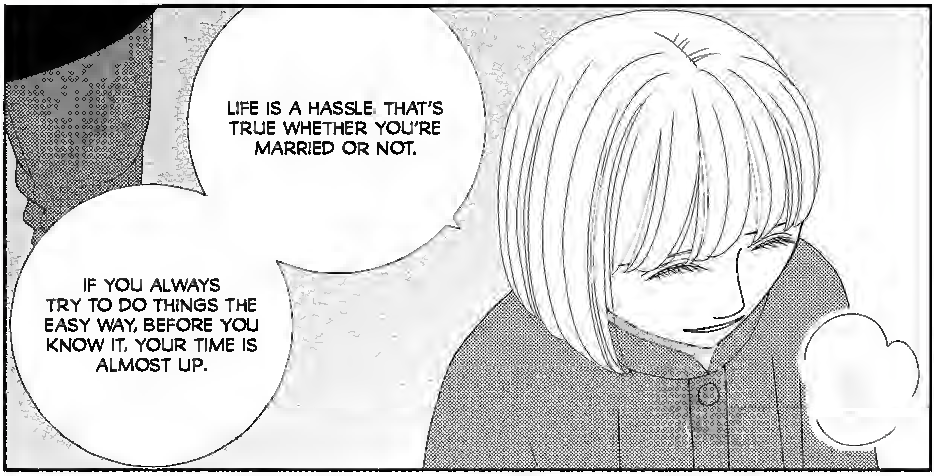
WE'RE MORE PASSIONATE THAN WE SEEM.
OH, REALLY?
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE READING FROM A SCRIPT.

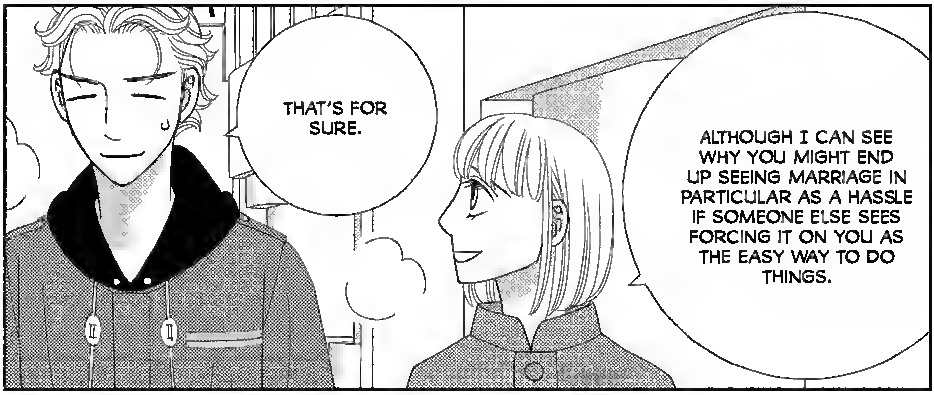

OF COURSE, HIRAMASA-SAN AND I WERE IN A BIT OF A RUSH DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES.
I SEE.


HUH?
WOW, YOU'RE A REGULAR PRINCE CHARMING!
HIRAMASA-SAN'S THE ONE WHO OFFERED ME A HAND UP WHEN I LOST MY JOB AND MY HOME.


PLEASE STOP IT.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WILL YOU BE MY PRINCE CHARMING?


WOW, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A HASSLE.
BUT WE STILL HAD TO TALK A LOT OF THINGS OVER FIRST.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS PROBABLY JUST MAKING SURE NOT TO BROOD OVER ANYTHING THAT COMES UP. YOU'VE GOT TO WORK SOME THINGS OUT AS YOU GO.

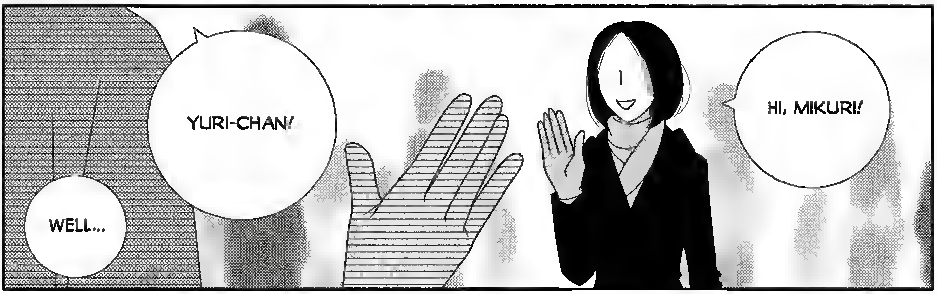

LIFE IS A HASSLE. THAT'S TRUE WHETHER YOU'RE MARRIED OR NOT.
IF YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO THINGS THE EASY WAY, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOUR TIME IS ALMOST UP.


THAT'S FOR SURE.
ALTHOUGH I CAN SEE WHY YOU MIGHT END UP SEEING MARRIAGE IN PARTICULAR AS A HASSLE IF SOMEONE ELSE SEES FORCING IT ON YOU AS THE EASY WAY TO DO THINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A PARTNER, KAZAMI-SAN?
WHAT?

...WHAT *AM* I LOOKING FOR?
I WON-DER.
HMM...

I TOLD YOU SHE'S NOT A COUGAR.
I WANT TO SEE HER, TOO.
I THOUGHT I'D CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE COUGAR FIRST
AREN'T YOU GOING?

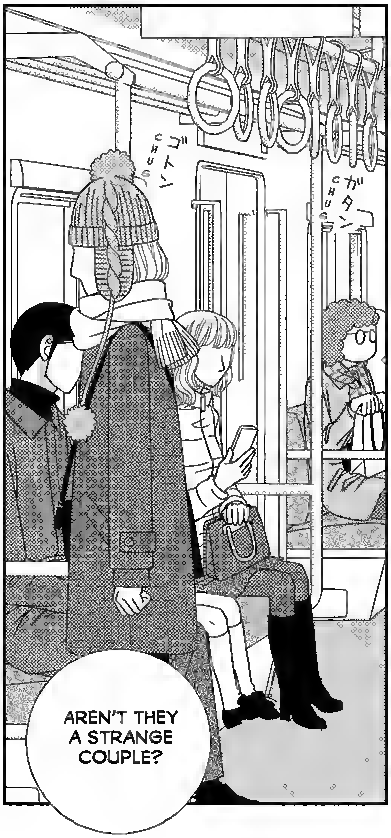

YURI-CHAN!
HI, MIKURI!
WELL...

YOU'RE WELCOME. TAKE CARE.
THANK YOU, MISS.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
YEAH.
SEE YOU AT WORK.
...I GUESS WE SHOULD BE OFF.

SEE YA.
I GUESS YOUR AUNT DOES LOOK HER AGE.
WAS THAT GUY CALLING ME OLD?!
WOW, YOU'VE GOT GOOD HEARING.
WELL, I NEVER! I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE, TOO.
UMM, SORRY...
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE MEANT.

TSUZAKI-KUN IS JUST TOO CUTE.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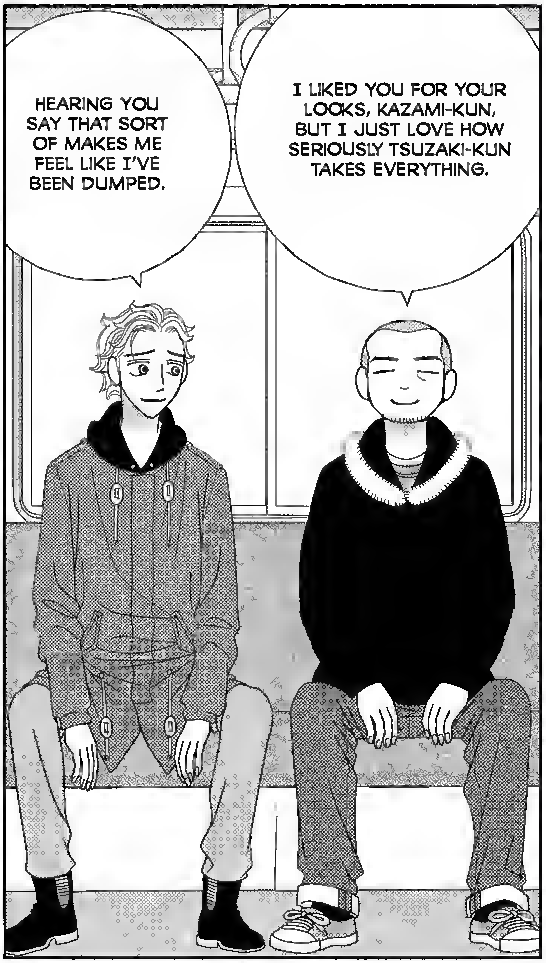
AREN'T THEY A STRANGE COUPLE?

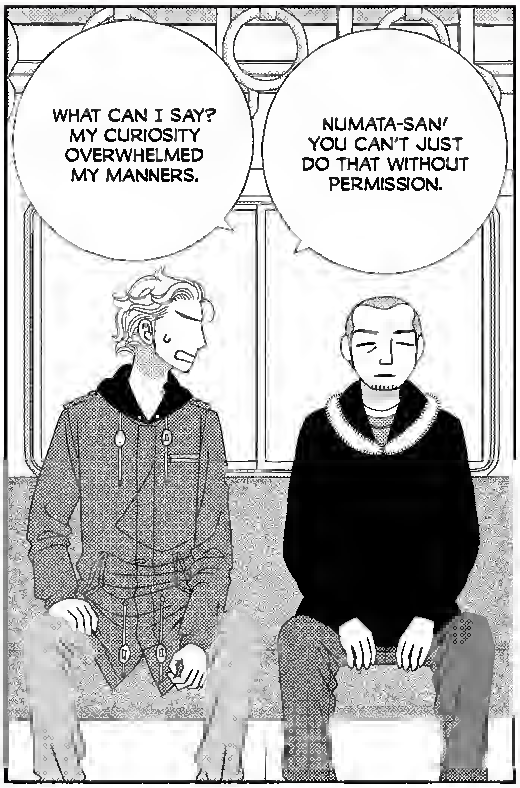

HEARING YOU SAY THAT SORT OF MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN DUMPED.
I LIKED YOU FOR YOUR LOOKS, KAZAMI-KUN, BUT I JUST LOVE HOW SERIOUSLY TSUZAKI-KUN TAKES EVERYTHING.

DO YOU MEAN LIKE HOW THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE NEWLYWEDS?
WELL, NORMALLY, IF THE WIFE DOES MOST OF THE COOKING, SHE CONTROLS THE KITCHEN, EVEN IN THE MOST PATRIARCHAL OF FAMILIES...

...BUT I COULDN'T SEE THE SLIGHTEST REFLECTION OF MRS. TSUZAKI'S TASTE IN THEIR KITCHEN.

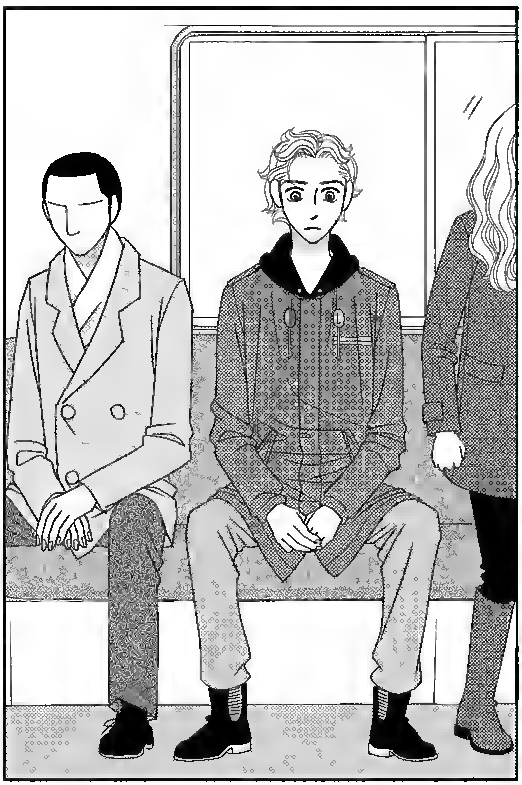
DO YOU THINK IT'S SET UP TO SUIT TSUZAKI-SAN'S TASTE THEN?
THERE'S MORE. ON OUR WAY OUT, I SNEAKED A PEEK AT THEIR BEDROOM.

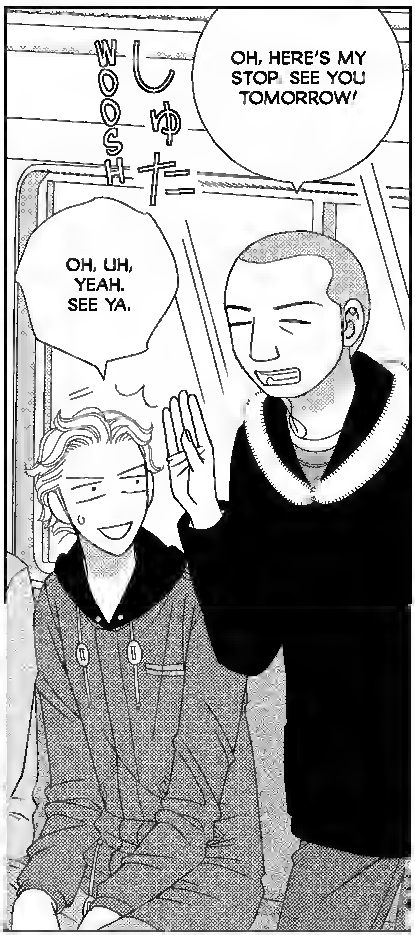
ALL THEY HAD WAS A SINGLE TWIN BED.


WHAT CAN I SAY? MY CURIOSITY OVERWHELMED MY MANNERS.
NUMATA-SAN! YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT WITHOUT PERMISSION.

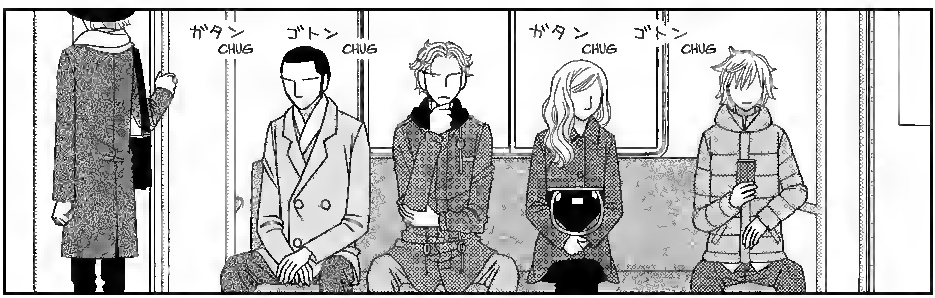
HUH?

I DUNNO, MAYBE THEY'RE JUST LOVEY-DOVEY..
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
YOU THINK SO?
I'M NOT EVEN SURE THEY'RE REALLY A COUPLE.




しゅ
WOOSH
OH, HERE'S MY STOP. SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OH, UH, YEAH. SEE YA.

ALL RIGHT, I'VE HEATED UP THE SUSHI!
I GOT YOU SOME ARGAN OIL.
CHRISTMAS IS STARTING TO GET THEM, TOO. I THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A MUSLIM COUNTRY!
HOW WAS MOROCCO?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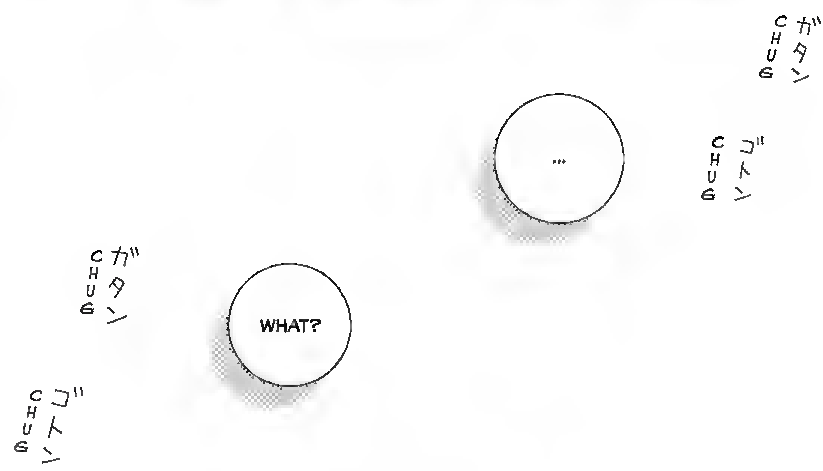
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WHAT?
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Special Thanks to

Mio Hase,
my family and friends,
Kamakura-san,
Murakami-san,
Komuro-san,
everyone who cooperated with my interviews,

and YOU.

With Love, Tsunami Umino, 2013

You can follow my work at this blog!
http://uminotsunami.seesaa.net/

Afterword

This is my thirty-seventh tankobon.

This is my first serial comic in a modern setting since *Kaiten Ginka*. I guess you could say *Kumaemon's* setting was modern, too, but that's not quite what I mean.

I'm working on this one a little differently than I have on my previous serial works, so I don't quite know how it will turn out. *Daisy ≠ Luck* was similar, but it got canceled as soon as it became a regular feature in the magazine it was being published in. I'm still a little nervous as to whether something like that will happen this time. Anyway, I already have an idea of where this story is going and how it's going to end, so I hope I'll be able to take my time with it.

Mikuri and her brother Chigaya are named after plants. Mikuri's name refers to the branched bur-reed, and Chigaya's refers to a type of grass (*Imperata cylindrical*). In fact, everyone in Mikuri's family is named after a plant. I didn't give much thought to Mikuri's father's name. I was getting close to my deadline for the first chapter, and when I realized I needed to put a name for Mikuri's head of household on the form on the last page, I had no idea what to do.

In the end, I couldn't come up with anything but the name of a character from a TV show I was into at the time (*Tochihiko Ishimoda from Akai Ito no Onna*), so I just figured whatever and went with Tochio Moriyama. His name refers to the tree *Aesculus turbinata*.

By the way, Tsuzaki's name is water-themed. Hiramasa refers to a kind of fish called the yellowtail amberjack. Kazami's name is wind-themed, as it is written with the character for wind. Characters like Numata (written with the characters for swamp and paddy) and Hino (written sun and field) have nature-themed names.

I hope you enjoy these names as much as the proverb-based chapter titles.

Oh, and did you know that "*Running Away is Embarrassing, but Useful*" is a Hungarian proverb? I've got all sorts of proverbs written down in my notebook, like "Where a cat looks there is surely a ghost." Then again, does that one really count as a proverb?

MOST MANGA START OUT BY BEING SERIALIZED IN A MAGAZINE. WHEN THE CHAPTERS ARE COLLECTED INTO A BOOK, THAT BOOK IS CALLED A *TANKOBON*

As of the time of this writing, my apartment is undergoing renovation, so I'm renting a different apartment on a weekly basis for now.

This place is really old and small, and when my assistant and I are using our computers at the same time, it's hard to connect to the internet. It's pretty stressful.

God, I just want to go back to my old place already. It's hard to get any work done here. I'm looking forward to seeing my new apartment though, as they're changing the way the rooms are set up as part of the renovation.

In other news, I've been wanting to go to Paris and Chiang Mai this year, and I already have plans to go to Paris with a friend of mine who also draws manga. It'll be my first time. The
closest I've ever been to France was when I visited Switzerland and went up Mont Blanc. It's pretty amazing how fast you can get to the top of a mountain taller than Mt. Fuji riding a cable car.

As far as work goes, I'd like to publish a one-off in *Morning* magazine again this year. I'll write the dialogue for it on my flights to and from Paris, since I won't have time otherwise.

Last year, I got to do a full-color one-off for *Morning*. It was the first time I was published in that magazine. I'd say it was one of the top ten best experiences of my life. My debut was in *Nakayoshi*, and I've been publishing in various magazines ever since. I haven't written anything that I've become particularly well known for, but I think there's value in just keeping at it.

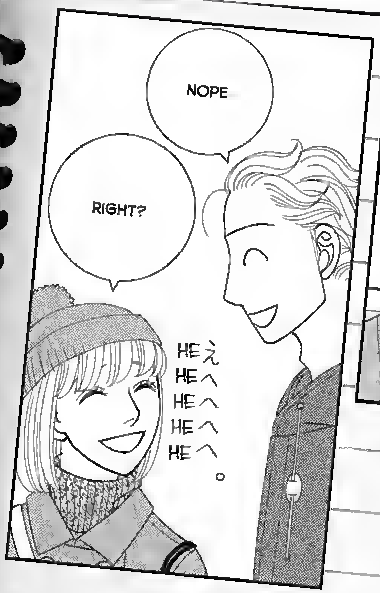
Publishing in *Morning* definitely got me some new readers.

It's weird to think that by next year it will have been twenty-five years since I started getting published in my teens. The time sure flies. I guess I've been working hard. I'm grateful to all my readers, but there's a special place in my heart for those who have been following my work all these years.

A lot's going to happen in volume two, so keep an eye out for it!
I'm glad to hear there are a lot of guys, too, who like *Running Away Is Embarrassing, But Useful*.

I'll keep doing my best!

Well anyway, see you later.



Volume 2 Coming Soooon!!

IS KAZAMI GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN HIRAMASA AND MIKURI'S MARRIAGE IN A WAY NO ONE EXPECTED?! ARE THESE TWO IN FOR SMOOTH SAILING, OR ROUGH WATERS?

THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST 5

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLEEP SURROUNDED BY THIS SWEET SMELL?
IT'S CLEARLY NOT THE SCENT OF FRESHLY WASHED SHEETS!
DID HER SMELL GET TRAPPED IN THE SHEETS BECAUSE SHE LAID DOWN IN THE BED AFTER HER BATH?

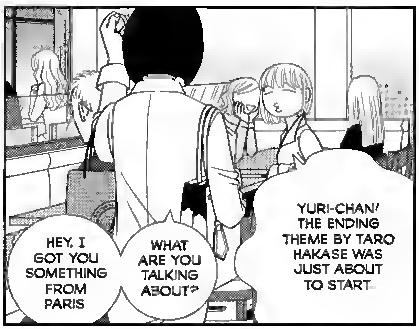
Translation Notes

Running away is Embarrassing, but useful, page 164
[164.1]
This Hungarian proverb was the title of this manga in Japanese. You can see it in Hungarian on the filler pages: *"Szégyen a futás, de hasznos"*

Oh, and did you know that "Running Away is Embarrassing, but Useful" is a Hungarian proverb? one really count as a proverb?

The Autumn Sun Sets as Fast as a Bucket Falling into a Well, page 2
[2.1]
This is a Japanese saying about how short the day is in autumn.

Chapter 1
The Autumn Sun Sets as Fast as a Bucket Falling into a Well


HEY, I GOT YOU SOMETHING FROM PARIS
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YURI-CHAN! THE ENDING THEME BY TARO HAKASE WAS JUST ABOUT TO START

Taro Hakase, page 20
[20.2]
This man is a famous Japanese composer and violinist.

Traditional Japanese house, page 25
[25.3]
In the original, she uses the term *kominka*. *Kominka* refers to various kinds of houses built in Japan prior to the Taisho era, which began in 1926. These houses were typically built with traditional Japanese architecture, which uses few or no nails.

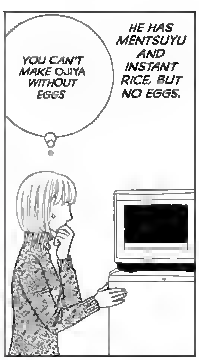
WELL, HE COULDN'T PAY A LOT MOLE'L, BUT HE SAID HE'S FOUND A REFURBISHED TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOUSE THAT HE LIKES.
WHAT? LIKE THAT LOG HOUSE HE ALWAYS WENT ON ABOUT? FOR REAL?

***Kayu*, page 30**
[30.1]
This is a porridge made by cooking rice in a larger amount of water than usual. In English, it is sometimes called congee.

***Ojiya*, page 35**
[35.3]
This dish is similar to *kayu*, but it typically includes a greater variety of ingredients, such as vegetables, soy sauce, miso, and meat.

***Dashi*, page 35**
[35.4]
This is a fish stock used often in Japanese cooking.

***Mentsuyu*, page 36**
[36.1]
Mentsuyu is a Japanese sauce made out of *dashi*, soy sauce, *mirin* (a rice-based cooking alcohol), and sugar. It can be used as an ingredient in various dishes as well as for dipping.



Family registry, page 48
[48.4]
This is the main system by which records are kept on Japanese citizens. In terms of its importance and use in everyday life, one can think of it as being akin to a combination of a birth certificate and a social security number. As the name suggests, it is organized by family and not by individual. Typically, things such as birth, death, marriage, and divorce are recorded here.

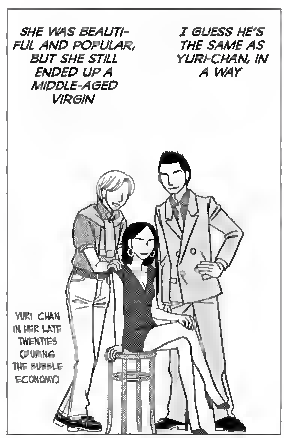
LET'S DECIDE ON YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, YOUR WAGES, AND YOUR TIME OFF IN ADVANCE
A COMMON-LAW MARRIAGE WON'T AFFECT YOUR FAMILY REGISTRY. WE JUST SUBMIT A FORM NOTIFYING THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR CHANGE OF RESIDENCE. I WON'T GET ANY TAX DEDUCTIONS, BUT WE CAN STILL COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND YOU'LL GET HEALTH INSURANCE.

Translation Notes

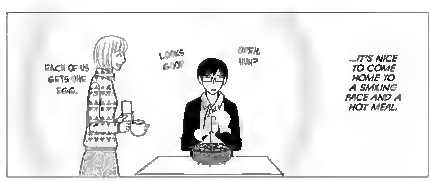
Chapter 2
A Fox's Wedding

A Fox's Wedding, page 51
[51.1]
This chapter title refers to a supernatural phenomenon known in Japan that is similar to a will-o'-the-wisp. These lights seen at night were once thought to be the lanterns of guests at a fox's wedding procession. The fox is known as a supernatural trickster in Japanese folklore.

Bubble economy, page 68
[68.1]
The term "bubble economy" often refers to the period in Japan between 1986 and 1991 when real estate and stock prices were driven extremely high by speculation, only to come crashing down. This marked the end of the high economic growth Japan experienced after World War II. The Japanese economy has struggled with stagnation ever since.


SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR, BUT SHE STILL ENDED UP A MIDDLE-AGED VIRGIN
I GUESS HE'S THE SAME AS YURI-CHAN, IN A WAY
YURI CHAN IN HER LATE TWENTIES DURING THE BUBBLE ECONOMY

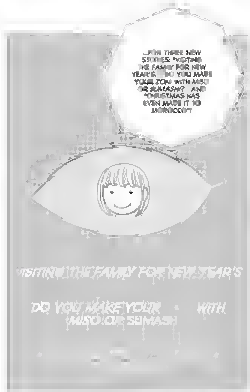
***Oden*, page 78**
[78.3]
Oden is a *dashi*-based stew that can include ingredients such as fish, potatoes, radish, and hard-boiled eggs.



Chicken for Christmas, page 79
[79.2]
Whereas Christmas is typically thought of as a family holiday in America and Europe, it is more of a couple's holiday in Japan. It is common to eat chicken on Christmas there, thanks to an advertising campaign for Kentucky Fried Chicken from the seventies.

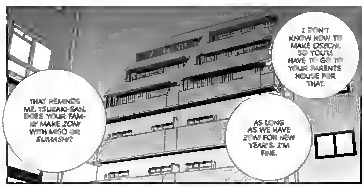
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I GUESS I JUST HAVEN'T NOTICED.
12 DECEMBER
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31
BUT I PREFER WE SHOULD HAVE TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS.

***Zoni*, page 85**
[85.1]
Zoni is a soup traditionally served during New Year's celebrations. It contains mochi rice cakes as well as dashi, soy sauce, and miso or sumashi.


...FOR THREE NEW SERVICES, INCLUDING WE FAMILY FOR NEW YEAR'S... DO YOU MAKE YOUR ZOUNI WITH MISO OR SUMASHI? AND CHRISTMAS HAS EVEN MADE IT TO MONOCOCO?
BEHIND THE FAMILY FOR NEW YEAR'S
DO YOU MAKE YOUR ZOUNI WITH MISO OR SUMASHI?

***Sumashi*, page 85**
[85.1]
Sumashi is a broth made by boiling miso in water and straining the resultant liquid.

***Osechi*, page 86**
[86.3]
Osechi refers collectively to the food traditionally eaten at Japanese New Year's celebrations. What osechi consists of varies by region, but it is typically an appetizer, something boiled, something made with vinegar, and something grilled or fried.


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE OSECHI, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IT FROM YOUR PARENTS HOUSE FOR THAT.
THAT REMINDS ME, TSUBAKI-SAN, DOES YOUR FAMILY MAKE ZOUNI WITH MISO OR SUMASHI?
AS LONG AS WE HAVE ZOUNI FOR NEW YEAR'S, I'M FINE.

Like Bamboo Sprouting After a Storm, page 90
[90.1]
In Japanese, this is an idiom for something that suddenly appears in great quantity.

Chapter 3
Like Bamboo Sprouting After a Storm

***Kohaku*, page 91**
[91.3]
Mikuri is referring to the NHK program *Kohaku Uta Gassen*, or Red and White Song Battle in English. This program is broadcast every year on the night of New Year's Eve in Japan. The producers invite popular music artists to appear on the program, and they divide them into red and white teams to compete with each other. The red team consists of female artists, and the white team consists of male ones.

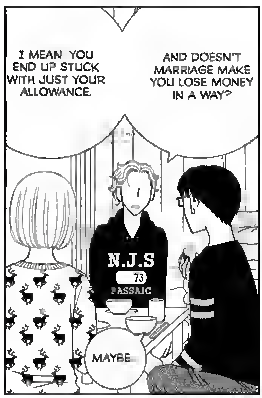
I'M GETTING PAID OVERTIME FOR STUFF LIKE BRINGING HIS PARENTS PRESENTS, HELPING WITH THE KITCHEN, AND WATCHING KOHAKU WITH THE FAMILY. EVERYTHING WAS GOING SMOOTHLY UNTIL...

Translation Notes

Tarako sauce, page 107
[107.1]
Tarako refers to the roe of the Alaska pollock, a type of cod. *Tarako* sauce is made using this roe, as well as salt, pepper, butter, and lemon juice, and it is commonly eaten on spaghetti in Japan.

THEY JUST ALREADY BOTTLED THEM? I THOUGHT THEY MADE IT...
IT'S LIKE TO GIVE IT A SHOT MYSELF.
OH YEAH? I'LL HAVE TO TRY THAT.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU EVER TRIED PUTTING WASABI IN TARAKO SAUCE AND SERVING IT OVER SPAGHETTI? IT'S REALLY GOOD.
YOU JUST DID IT IN WORDS.

Allowance, page 136
[136.3]
Traditionally, it is the wife who handles money in Japanese households, and she gives an allowance to her husband and children.



***Tankobon*, page 164**
[164.1]
Most manga start out by being serialized in a magazine. When the chapters are collected into a book, that book is called a *tankobon*.

This is my thirty-seventh tankobon.

The Full-Time Wife Escapist 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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